the Hippo
DECEMBER 1- 7, 2016

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PALACE'S *A CHRISTMAS CAROL* P. 24

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GRANITE VIEWS **FRED BRAMANTE**

Dems was rigged!

Was Hillary Clinton the legitimately nominated representative of the Democratic Party? I don't think so.

The Democratic Party suffered an enormous setback when Hillary was defeated in the presidential election. According to virtually every poll, Hillary was a shoo-in and given as much as a 90-percent likelihood of winning on the morning of the election. Stunned Democrats are asking how this could have happened. Here are my thoughts.

During the primary, two candidates filled huge arenas all over America: Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders. Bernie and Trump drew crowds many times the size of Hillary's. So, how did Hillary win and not Bernie? As both Bernie and Trump would regularly say, "The system is rigged." I, too, believe that the system was rigged, but mostly on the Democratic side.

So, how was it rigged? Let's begin with the debate schedule. The last time there was an open seat in the White House was 2008. The Democratic National Committee approved 26 debates. This large number of debates benefits lesser-known candidates, giving them precious visibility to the electorate. At that time, Barack Obama was the lesser-known candidate. Hillary had 100 percent name recognition. As we know, she lost.

So, in 2016, how did the DNC approach televised debates? They reduced the number to six and scheduled them at inconvenient times to ensure smaller audiences. Bernie complained loudly to little avail. How could this happen? One hint might be that Hillary's campaign chairman in 2008 was now chairperson of the DNC, Debbie Wasserman Schultz. But wait, there's more.

How is it possible for Bernie to win New Hampshire by a landslide, yet find that in the end he didn't win? The Democrats' superdelegate system was designed to favor party insiders, a.k.a. Hillary. This, in my opinion, is the biggest voter nullification effort in American political history and may have stolen victory from the darling of the left to clear the way for the party's choice. Bernie was doomed from the start.

And, just when you thought it couldn't get worse, debate questions were given to Hillary ahead of time; the media, in the tank for Hillary, called the California primary before most votes were cast; and don't forget the Wikileaks emails that showed DNC officials clearly working against Bernie's interest.

The crowds showed us that the heart of the Democrats was with Bernie, but he was never given a fair chance. Might Bernie have beaten Trump? We will never know.

Fred Bramante is past chairman and member of the NH State Board of Education. He speaks and consults on education redesign.

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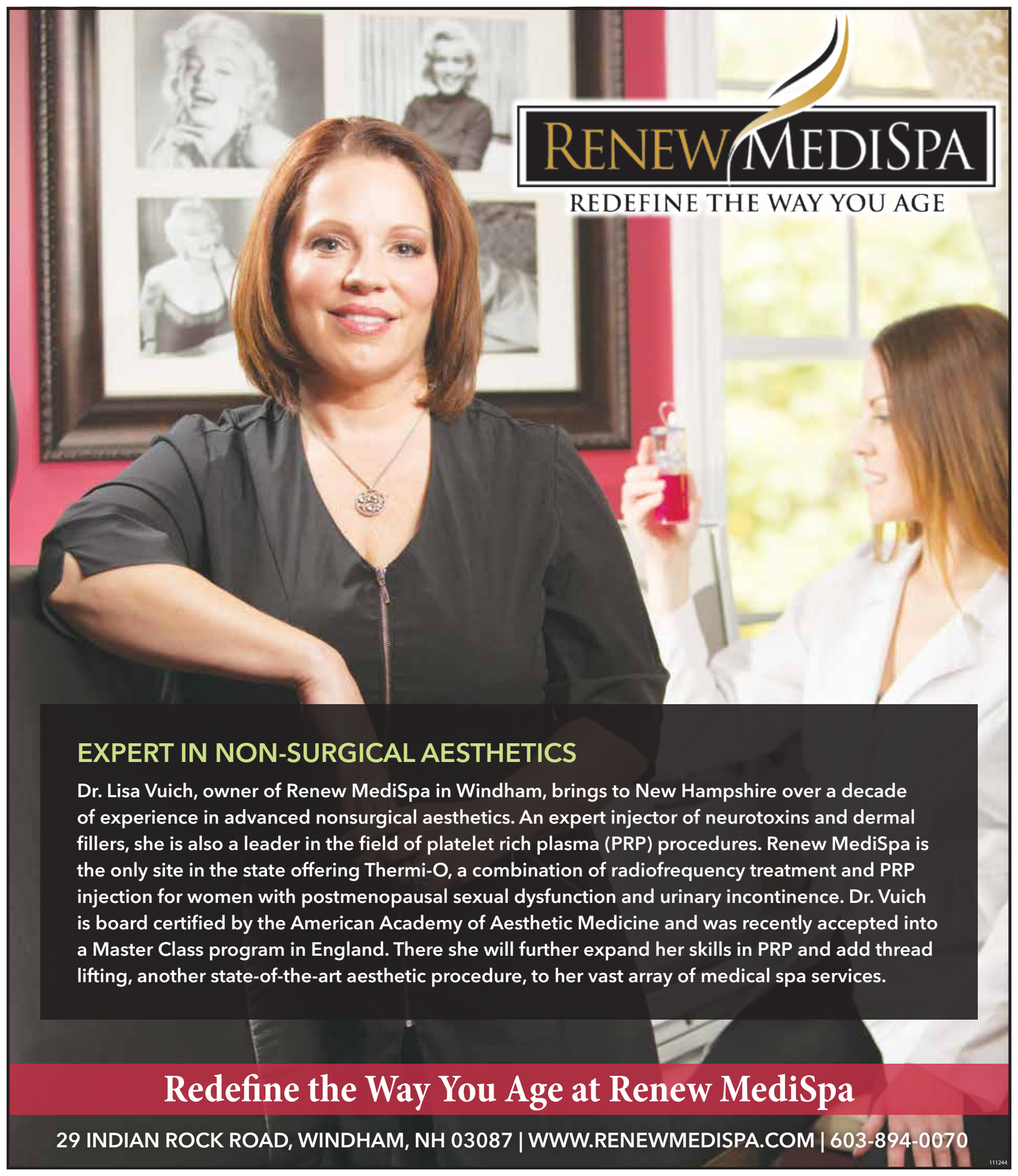

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Dr. Lisa Vuich, owner of Renew MediSpa in Windham, brings to New Hampshire over a decade of experience in advanced nonsurgical aesthetics. An expert injector of neurotoxins and dermal fillers, she is also a leader in the field of platelet rich plasma (PRP) procedures. Renew MediSpa is the only site in the state offering Thermi-O, a combination of radiofrequency treatment and PRP injection for women with postmenopausal sexual dysfunction and urinary incontinence. Dr. Vuich is board certified by the American Academy of Aesthetic Medicine and was recently accepted into a Master Class program in England. There she will further expand her skills in PRP and add thread lifting, another state-of-the-art aesthetic procedure, to her vast array of medical spa services.

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NEWS & NOTES

Budget talks begin

As the legislature gears up for its next session, state agencies and state-funded organizations have begun to make their bids for more money. The University System of New Hampshire proposed to freeze in-state tuition if the legislature approves a 12-percent increase over the next biennium, the Union Leader reported. It would also waive tuition for valedictorians and salutatorians from each New Hampshire high school. According to the UL, another initiative developed by Democratic state Rep. Wayne Burton would create a scholarship fund that would provide $4,000 annually to local students. How to secure the funding is an open question, but Burton wants to combine state general funds with buy-in from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and revenue from a new tax on business.

Meanwhile criminal justice departments that have been understaffed and pressed into longer service amid a drug crisis are asking for some relief. The AP reported the Attorney General's office is requesting funds to pay for a new medical examiner. The two existing MEs are on track to conduct more autopsies this year than the industry recommendation due to a rise in opioid overdoses. The chief ME is reportedly just starting to examine deaths from July.

And the Department of Corrections is asking for about $30 million in part to pay for continued overtime for its corrections officers, NHPR reported. The department has struggled to hire more guards during the labor shortage, with 115 unfilled positions. About $10 million of the total requested would be used to staff the new women's prison set to open next fall in Concord, and another portion would be used to hire six new probation and parole officers assigned to the state's drug courts.

Correction

A Quality of Life Index item on page 9 of the Nov. 24 issue incorrectly identified a farm being used for a refugee farming program. The correct name of the farm is Our Story Hill. The Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success partnered with The Russell Farm & Forest Conservation Foundation to secure the land for $90,000.

Voter fraud claims

The New Hampshire Secretary of State's office says there's no evidence of widespread election fraud despite President-elect Donald Trump claiming on Twitter that the election outcomes in New Hampshire and other states were skewed against him due to "serious voter fraud." He tweeted fraud also took place in California and Virginia. In an earlier tweet, Trump stated that he only lost the popular vote (which Clinton leads by more than 2 million votes) because of millions of people whom he alleged voted illegally. Election officials, Democrats and even leading Republicans pushed back against the false claims, CNN reported. Republican strategist and former New Hampshire Attorney General Tom Rath tweeted there was "no fraud, serious or other, in this election in NH."

Immigrant kids

Dartmouth College is joining with more than 200 colleges that have signed a letter asking the new administration to continue the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, which protects people who were brought to the country illegally as children from being deported. NHPR reported Dartmouth President Philip Hanlon reassured students that the school will do everything it can to mitigate any effects from a change to DACA, which Donald Trump has pledged to overturn. The letter signed by the universities and colleges called the program a "moral imperative and a national necessity."

Safe stations

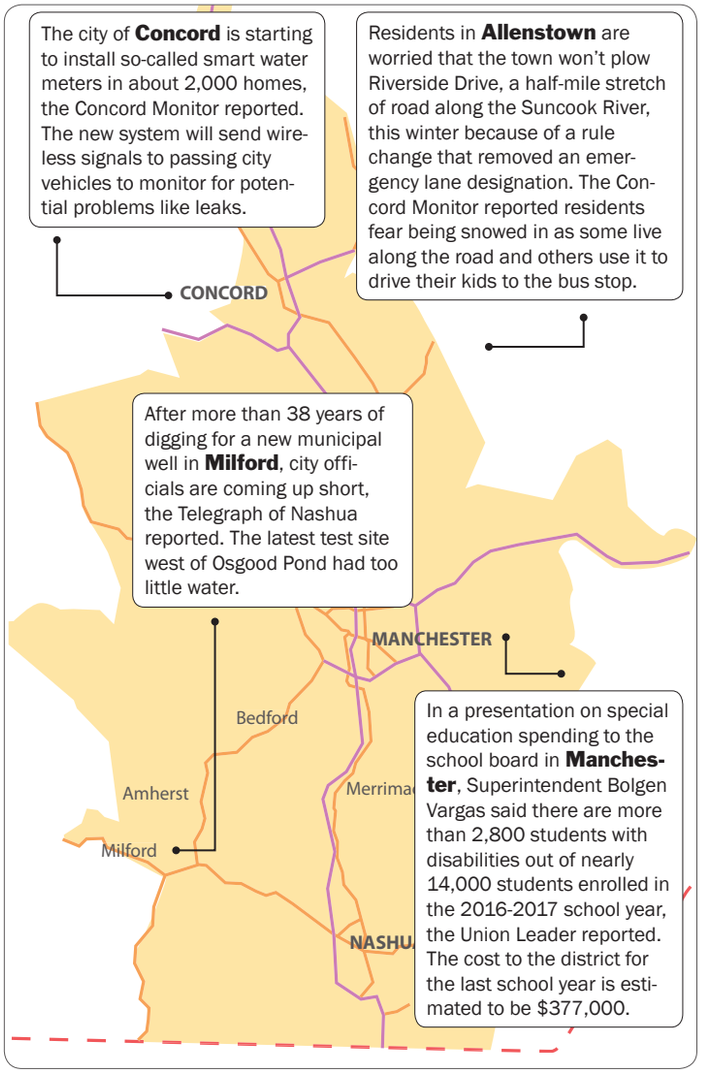
The Safe Station program in Manchester, which opens city stations to addicts seeking treatment and directs them to area services with the help of treatment provider Serenity Place, is carrying a far bigger caseload than originally expected. Fire Chief Dan Goonan told NHPR that they expected a few participants each month but instead the program has seen about 150 monthly. Goonan said its 800th person was served on Thanksgiving since the program launched earlier this spring. But more than half of those have come from outside of the city, some from other New England states. Nashua launched its Safe Station program earlier this month.

Manchester schools

The stage has been set for infighting at the school board in Manchester over the hiring committee that reviewed candidates for the superintendent job. The Union Leader reported board member Connie Van Houten brought forward allegations of charter violations in allowing Vice Chairman Art Beaudry on the Special Committee on the Superintendent Search. Houten argues in a letter sent to Mayor Ted Gatsas that Beaudry should have recused himself since he had previously filed legal actions against an internal candidate, Assistant Superintendent David Ryan, whose candidacy was not public knowledge. The committee selected Bolgen Vargas after fellow finalist Vincent Cotter removed himself from the running. Ryan announced his resignation effective June 30, 2017, at a Nov. 14 meeting.

Marijuana law

Now that Maine and Massachusetts legalized recreational marijuana in the last election, advocates believe this will be the year New Hampshire decriminalizes possession of small amounts of cannabis. NHPR reported Democratic Rep. Renny Cushing is championing the effort and turnover in the state Senate and governor's seat may prove more friendly to such a change. The House has repeatedly passed decriminalization but it has died in the Senate. Past governors have been cool to the idea, often vowing to veto such a bill, but Governor-elect Chris Sununu has expressed support for decriminalization, saying it would save the state money and resources that could be spent on more serious drugs like heroin and fentanyl. New Hampshire is the only New England state that has not decriminalized small amounts of marijuana.



Pierce papers

The New Hampshire Historical Society hopes to buy papers at auction that belonged to Franklin Pierce, the only president to have hailed from New Hampshire. The AP reported the auction was set to take place on Nov. 29 in New York and the letters are said to be worth between $15,000 and $30,000. Pierce's birthday is Nov. 30. The papers include 90 letters between Pierce and his secretary Sidney Webster. The papers would add to the society's already large collection of Pierce-related items.

BEST WEEK

WENTWORTH-DOUGLASS

The deal that would see Massachusetts General Hospital take over Wentworth-Douglass Hospital in Dover is one step closer to getting approved, NHPR reported. The New Hampshire Attorney General gave a thumbs up to an aspect of the proposed acquisition, which is contingent on WDH continuing the same degree of community charity work in the region. The hospital also agreed to add eight full-time mental health workers to help build up the area's mental health and substance abuse treatment system. The AG will release its findings from a second review by the end of the year that will focus on potential concerns over competition.

WORST WEEK

QUEEN CITY RESIDENTS

Manchester detectives are picking up the pieces of a criminal mischief spree in the city that included 25 complaints in the North End, two complaints in the South End and one on the West Side. According to a press release, victims reported vandalism and damage to Christmas decorations as well as vehicles, fencing and porch railings. One house window was broken and most vehicle damage involved broken windows and mirrors. The incidents took place from the evening of Nov. 21 through Nov. 26. Anyone with information about the spree is asked to call the Detective Division at 792-5500 or Manchester Police Crimeline at 624-4040.

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More opioids?

Cousins of deadly drug showing up in New Hampshire

By Ryan Lessard
news@hippopress.com

Fentanyl is the deadliest drug in the state right now, but close relatives of the chemical are starting to show up in crime lab test results, and some fear its even deadlier cousin, carfentanil, may be close behind.

By the numbers

Fentanyl is an opioid that has a sedating and painkilling effect similar to that of heroin, but it's 50 times more potent. And unlike heroin, which is made from poppy plants, fentanyl can be created in a lab. Drug cartels are producing fentanyl in places like Mexico and China and shipping it across our borders.

According to the state Medical Examiner's office, fentanyl, without any other drugs mixed in, killed 41 percent of overdose victims this year and 37 percent the year before — a plurality in both cases. Taken as a whole, fentanyl has been involved in a majority of drug-related deaths, about 70 percent (214) of deaths so far this year and 64 percent (283) in 2015.

Heroin's involvement has dwindled. Heroin was involved in 20 percent of overdose deaths in 2015 overall and that's gone down to 5 percent as of Nov. 8. Similarly, deaths involving heroin alone went from 7 percent last year to 0.06 percent so far this year.

That's made fentanyl public enemy No. 1 in the Granite State. And now, in just the past year, fentanyl spinoffs known as analogues have arrived. They're nearly identical to fentanyl, chemically speaking, and they come with names like furanyl fentanyl, fluoro fentanyl and acetyl fentanyl.

"Especially, we're seeing more and more acetyl fentanyl mixed in with the fentanyl, and we didn't see that originally," said Tim Pifer, the director of the state police crime lab.

The ME's office reported that of fentanyl-related drug deaths this year, one involved furanyl fentanyl, one involved fluoro fentanyl and 26 had the presence of acetyl fentanyl.

What are they?

Pifer said furanyl and acetyl fentanyl are both about six times less potent than fentanyl.

Less is known about fluoro fentanyl. Some preliminary science suggests it's slightly more potent than fentanyl.

Only one sample tested by the crime lab was entirely composed of furanyl fentanyl along with cutting agents to dilute it. The other analogues are universally found mixed in with regular fentanyl.

For the most part, the sudden appearance of the compounds is a mystery, but Pifer and his colleagues believe the illicit drug manufacturers are not creating them on purpose.

"We're wondering why we're starting to see that and the hypothesis is that the starting material [used to make] the clandestinely made fentanyl is basically impure to the point where it has some other compounds that maybe aren't being synthesized fully to fentanyl," Pifer said.

What changed is subject to speculation. Drug manufacturers could be growing more careless or perhaps they started to purchase the starting ingredients from new suppliers who don't guarantee the same level of purity.

Elephant tranquilizer

Another fentanyl analogue that has officials like Pifer worried, but hasn't yet arrived in the state, is carfentanil.

Unlike the analogues that have shown up so far, this is not an accidental byproduct of fentanyl. Carfentanil is a purpose-made analgesic 100 times more potent than fentanyl and is used to tranquilize large animals like elephants. It's 10,000 times more potent than morphine.

Like its less potent cousins, it's a controlled substance, but the Drug Enforcement Administration released a warning in September that it's surfaced around the country and has caused a significant number of deaths.

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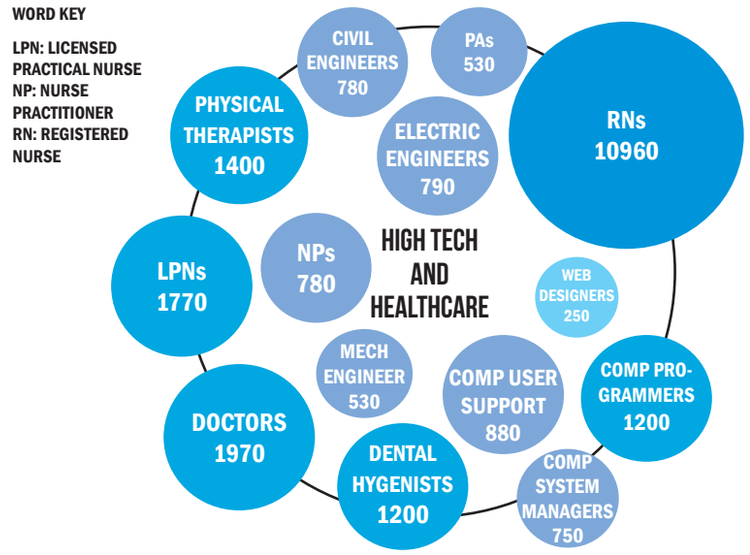
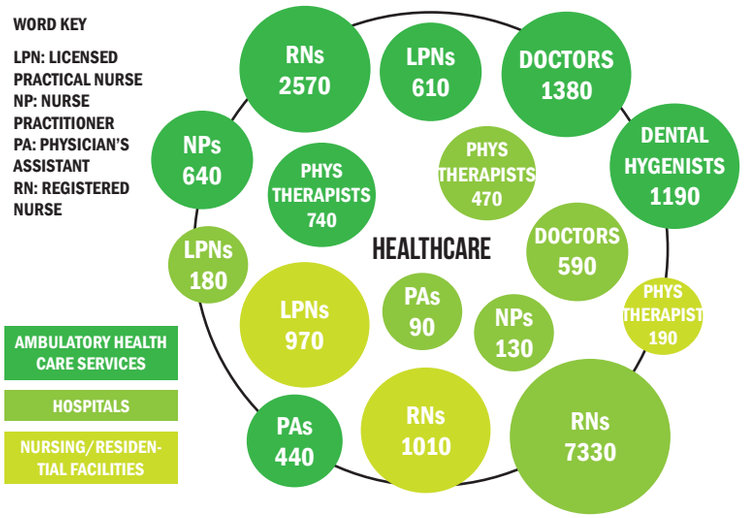
WHERE ARE THE NH STEM JOBS?

New Hampshire Employment Security recently released updated charts on where people with specialties in science, technology, engineering and math are employed in the state. We've highlighted how many STEM workers are employed in high tech and medical fields, where healthcare workers find their work and which manufacturing jobs are most popular.

Top high tech and medical jobs

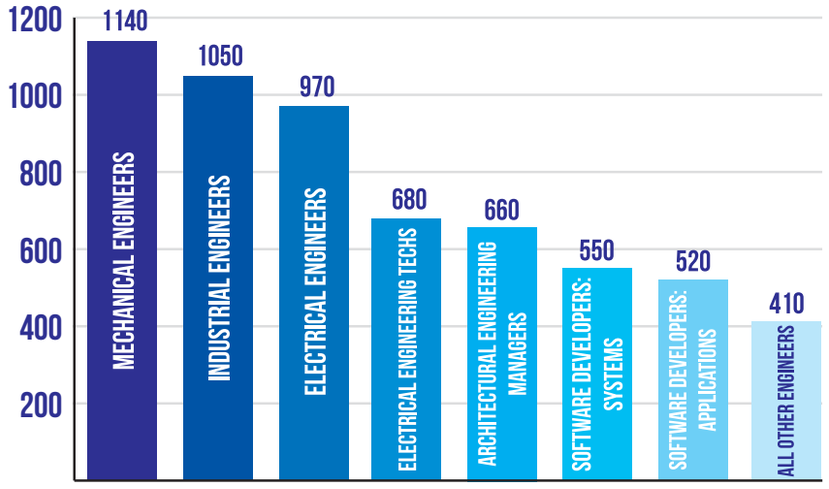


Healthcare sectors



Manufacturers

A look at what kind of specialists manufacturers employ the most.*



Source: NH Employment Security. *There is some overlap between manufacturing and high tech employers, but NH Employment Security provides a breakdown for each.

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NEWS

A voting alternative?

Locals weigh the benefits of ranked-choice voting

By Ryan Lessard
news@hippopress.com

Neighboring Maine became the first state in the country to pass ranked-choice voting, also known as instant-runoff voting, when a referendum passed on Election Day. Ahead of the vote, a nonpartisan organization conducted an informal poll and found majority support for such a system in New Hampshire.

Here's how it works: Instead of only voting for one candidate in a given race like the race for governor, for example, voters will be asked to rank multiple candidates. So, if there are three candidates, the voters who cast first-choice votes that went to a losing third candidate still have a voice. After that last-place candidate is eliminated, the second-choice votes get assigned to the remaining two candidates to determine a winner.

"It lowers the cost for voting for a third party candidate," said St. Anselm College political science professor Chris Galdieri.

In essence, it eliminates third-party spoilers or vote-splitting. Galdieri said if it had been the way we voted for president in 2000, voters could have felt more free to vote for Green Party candidate Ralph Nader. And if Nader still got the least votes, the theory goes, they would have likely gone to Al Gore. Instead, Nader went down in history as possibly contributing to Bush's success in the swing state of Florida, which determined the election.

Ranked-choice voting proved a popular idea in Maine because of the state's track record electing governors with only a plurality of the vote. With RCV, the winner always has a true majority.

Curious how such a system might play in the Granite State, Citizens Count, NH's Live Free or Die Alliance — an organization that provides objective election information and engages residents to test the waters on political issues — started the conversation online.

"We posted the question, 'Should New Hampshire adopt ranked-choice voting?'" Citizens Count Editor Jacquelyn Benson said.

Of the 113 participants (a small, nonscientific sample) who responded, 54 percent were in favor of instituting RCV in New Hampshire and 46 percent were opposed.

Benson said those against it feared the new system would be too confusing for voters, causing them to vote incorrectly, and expressed concerns that it might be open to fraud. Those in favor generally expressed an interest in how the system tends to give third-party candidates a greater chance of winning.

"There were definitely a lot of people … on the 'yes' side that were looking at the system that we have now, which is admittedly dominated by two major parties, and they were expressing dissatisfaction with that," Benson said.

Short of giving third parties a slight edge, it may have also been seen as a way of voting one's conscience more freely, instead of resorting to the kind of strategic voting some feel forced into with the current two-party system.

In New Hampshire, such a change to how we vote could upset the balance of power.

"I think it might benefit libertarians. I think it might encourage more people to run as independents," Galdieri said.

The reign of the two party system would be weakest in the legislature, since New Hampshire has one of the largest citizen legislatures in the English speaking world. If third parties and independents take up a significant share of the lawmakers, that would sometimes require coalitions be formed to create majorities — the likes of which are seen more commonly in European parliaments.

"As we saw in Britain in 2010, the junior partner does not come out of those deals with a whole lot of self respect," Galdieri said, referring to the coalition between the Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrats.

While it's impossible to know if RCV's apparent popularity would have been any different in the past, Benson said this year's presidential election — featuring two historically unpopular candidates — may have played a role in people's thoughts about it.

"You can't separate the answers that we got from the climate in which the discussion was taking place," Benson said.

There are some critics of the system who say the spoiler effect by third parties can still take place in a more gradual and delayed sense, but that view was not a popular one in the online discussion.

While RCV provides a system where the winner always has a majority vote, it's possible still for cases where the winner was most voters' second choice.

"I think a lot of voters might look askance at that," Galdieri said.

Observers in New Hampshire and other states will now have their first statewide test case in Maine, and how future elections unfold there will be of great interest to those considering RCV elsewhere.

New Hampshire would not be able to follow in Maine's footsteps through a ballot measure; it would require a legislative act.

Citizen of the year

Presidential speechwriter turned local leader

Teresa Rosenberger of Concord is the president of Devine Strategies and a community leader and philanthropist. She was awarded the 2016 Citizen of the Year award by the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce.

Q: ***How did the Chamber surprise you with the award?***

I always go to the Chamber annual dinner and have for 27 years, so off I went. I called my husband and said, 'I forgot, it was the chamber annual dinner. I won't be home for dinner.' He said, 'Don't worry about it. I've got some painting to do. I'll see you when you get home.' So I had no idea. ... One daughter flew in from New Mexico and she has two small children and a husband who's a neurosurgeon, so to see her there was a major shock. … And then another daughter came in from New York, and my son came in from Washington.

You've filled a number of interesting leadership roles over the years. What has had the biggest impact on you?

Moving from Washington, D.C., to Concord, New Hampshire [in 1991], because I did a lot of volunteer work in Washington and was active, but not anywhere as active as I've been since I've been in New Hampshire. The nice thing about being in New Hampshire is you really can roll up your sleeves and get involved. You can actually raise your hand and say, 'I'm really interested in your organization. I'd like to get involved.' And people are very open and welcoming and they let you … participate. You can make a difference here, whereas you can make a difference in other places but it may not be quite as easy.

What personal strengths do you think you bring to the table?

I think I just work hard. I think … I like to get the job done, I like to succeed, I like to accomplish whatever the goal may be. And so, I try, in doing that, to look at multiple solutions to a problem. I don't think every situation, every goal has only one path, so I like to look as diversely as I can to solve a problem. And I love solving problems or meeting goals.

How did your start as a media writer and presidential speechwriter prepare you for your future leadership positions?

I was privileged to work … for Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan ... and was able to watch how, and in totally different ways, they were able to accomplish some really pretty significant policy issues for the country. … It was really incredible at a young age to be able to watch how leaders really worked and worked in different capacities. … I grew up in a small town … and then went to Washington and was just fascinated by ending up where I did and being able to watch — obviously, in the Nixon administration — a very … historic, extraordinary situation. And it was fascinating to see where there was leadership within, where there wasn't. … I'm trained as a journalist and I think probably one of the reasons I look at things the way I do is because of that training; because you're looking, you're investigating, you're analyzing, you're watching, you're looking for trends. … When you observe, you learn. And, in my case, I learned how to participate.

Courtesy photo.

You've volunteered on and chaired numerous boards in the state. What are you most proud of when you think of the work you've put into those organizations?

Well, they're all so totally different, because I've done everything from the Chamber board to preservation, to health care, cultural organizations, business organizations. It's very hard to say, other than I just look back and hope that I have contributed to each one in some way that was meaningful.

What's a lesson you learned early in life that you've carried with you in your business dealings?

I think it's just hard work. I came from a family who valued hard work and valued honesty and integrity. And that's what I've tried to do. I've tried to work hard and be … straightforward and honest and keep my integrity.

What advice do you have for young people in New Hampshire?

Get involved. When I moved here, I took the children one day to Pat's Peak to learn how to ski. ... They were out skiing and I was sitting in the lodge and there was this nice woman also having a cup of tea. [I asked her] 'What pointers can you give me?' ... And she said to me, 'New Hampshire people are involved. Everybody is involved. It makes no difference what you're involved in, you just have to get involved.' … And holy cow, she was absolutely right. — *Ryan Lessard*

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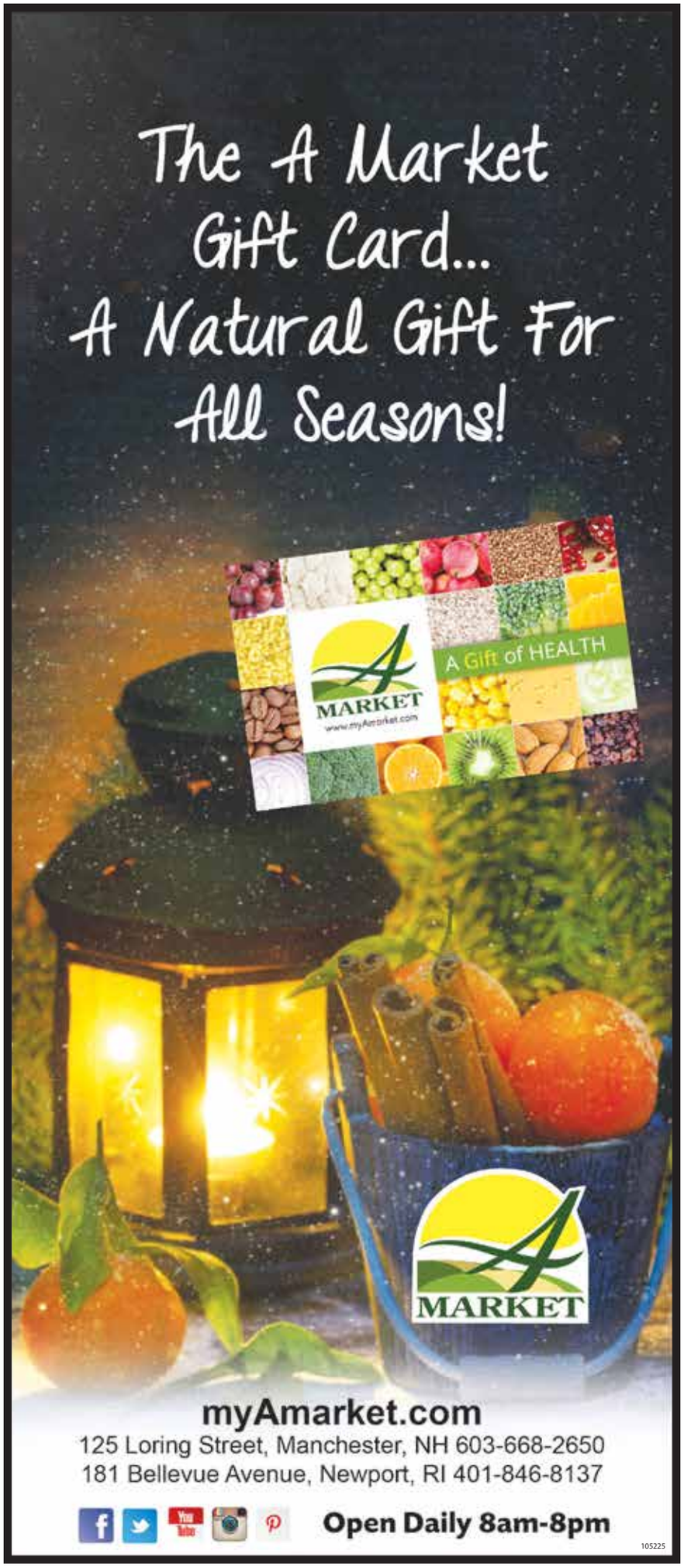

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

CCSNH recovers stolen funds

The Community College System of New Hampshire has gotten back nearly the full amount that it lost as a victim of wire fraud. According to a press release, CCSNH recovered $124,000 of the approximately $130,000 stolen, working with its financial institution. In late October, CCSNH announced it was the victim of the theft after a thief posing as a contractor who had been receiving regular payments requested their payments be transferred electronically. The community college system said it has developed training and security practices to guard against future schemes.

QOL Score: +1

Comment: *CCSNH learned during the investigation that other colleges and universities in New England had been similarly targeted.*

Hospital accidents down

According to a report from the state health department, preventable accidents — so-called "adverse events" — in hospitals decreased somewhat from 2014 to 2015. The report states that adverse events spiked to 73 cases in 2014 due to a rule change that doubled the number of pressure ulcers reported. There were 64 cases in 2015, a 12-percent decrease. It's still an increase over past years. There were 51 in 2013, and in 2010, 2011 and 2012 there were 42. Last year, 22 cases were related to bed sores, there were 21 deaths or serious injuries from falls, 10 events were from surgical or invasive procedures and 11 were from other miscellaneous events. Surgeries on wrong body parts happened at Wentworth-Douglas Hospital (1), Lakes Region General Hospital (1) and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (2). The same three hospitals reported a handful of foreign objects left in patients after surgery.

QOL Score: +1

Comment: *While the overall trend is down, deaths of babies during low-risk births had an uptick from one in 2014 to four in 2015.*

NH mountains ready to go

As of Thanksgiving weekend, six New Hampshire mountains had opened their trails and chairlifts for area skiers: Bretton Woods, Loon Mountain, Waterville Valley, Cannon Mountain, Mount Sunapee and Cranmore Mountain. Jessyca Keeler, executive director of Ski New Hampshire, said in an NHPR story that the 2016-2017 season is already looking better than the last; as soon as weather temperatures dip, there will be lots and lots of snowmaking happening all around the Granite State.

QOL Score: +1

Comment: *When in New Hampshire, go skiing. (That's QOL's winter motto.)*

And the downside of this ...

Granite Staters might not have been so happy about the incoming winter weather during the Tuesday morning commute to work. According to a WMUR story, there were several crashes due to the wet, wintry conditions, with reported accidents in Concord, Pittsfield, Belmont (where there was a cement truck rollover), Barnstead, Winchester, Washington, Northfield, Bath, Marlow and Alton. In turn, these accidents caused traffic delays on many major roadways, including I-93, I-393 and I-89.

QOL Score: -1

Comment: *QOL has to say it every year — slow down! Get snow tires! We live in New Hampshire!*

QOL score: 77
Net change: +2
QOL this week: 79

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Up and down first month for the Celtics

It took until three weeks into the season before Celtics Nation finally saw what most were expecting to see nightly from the Celtics starting Nov. 1. And it didn't even happen for an entire game. It came in a rousing 31-14 fourth quarter against the more disappointing Minnesota Timberwolves to bring them back from an 81-68 deficit to be 99-96 winners.

It happened after they finally demonstrated the kind of defense expected from Day 1 as they forced the T-Wolves back on their heels while contesting every shot. That in turn led to easy fast-break baskets and free throws mixed in with a few timely threes. It did help that they finally had **Al Horford** and **Jae Crowder** back, though after tweaking his ankle Crowder was not around for the comeback. And since key contributions came from **Marcus Smart** and **Terry Rozier** during much of the surge, the win wasn't about the injury bug they've been hit with. It was about effort and energy.

But that was the T-Wolves and not the needed marquee win to make skeptics like me believers. That could have come the day after Thanksgiving vs. San Antonio but did not in a 109-103 loss. And this team is past the morale victory stage. When you're by killed by guys off the bench, as they were by **Patty Mills** and **David Lee**, you don't get any points for losing to a top team, even if you play fairly well. That loss left them 9-7, which after a first month of ups and down is a good time to give my state of the team address for the issues they face going forward.

The Effort: Sorry, not impressed with it so far. Actually, a better word is I'm depressed by the lack of it we've seen on the boards, all through the first week of the season and lately in games like the Golden State blowout. My biggest complaint, **Isaiah Thomas** aside, is that this team still seems immature enough to believe glowing things written about them — which I think is why they came out of the box so badly after reading all summer how good they are supposed to be.

Al Horford: I love the Al Horford pickup, but in the words of **Coach B**, he is what he is. He's a very solid player who contributes in every aspect of the game and a big improvement over the frustrating **Jared Sullinger**. What he's not is **Kevin Garnett** or **Paul Pierce**, meaning he's not on their level in terms of impact and is more akin to the **Ray Allen** third rung in the three-star foundation needed to win an NBA title. In the parlance of the day: a Top 20 player, not Top 5. So they're still an alpha dog short of being legit contenders.

Biggest Immediate Need: Not that they couldn't use one, but they can live without satiating the local lust for a three-baller. They're getting killed on the boards nightly and there's no help in sight. So I'll say again what I've been saying since the summer: Their biggest need is a **Marc Gasol**- or **Rudy Gobert**-type big who can anchor the defense, block shots and rebounds with toughness. I know, hard to find.

Internet Rumors: These generally are coming from 30-something guys in their pajamas still living in their parents' basement. I know it works for **Mel Kiper Jr.** but trust me, they don't know spit from Shinola. The latest had the Warriors sending **Klay Thompson** to Boston for **Avery Bradley**, **Jae Crowder** and both Brooklyn picks. I might give that up for prime-of-life **Shaq** or **Tim Duncan**, but for the 21st-century version of **Scottie Pippen** to **Stephen Curry**'s **Michael Jordan** I don't think so. I don't care how good a shooter he is. First, if you do that, who plays the three — **Jaylon Brown**? Are you insane? He's two years away at least and how do you think a 19-year-old will do covering **LeBron** in the Eastern Conference finals? I'd say something akin to **General Custer**'s retirement game at Little Big Horn. While it's true they could use a knockdown three-point shooter, this team is built on its superior perimeter defense, and if you give up Crowder and Bradly there goes 67 percent of it. That make this deal one step forward and two steps back. Thompson is very good and the kind of major scorer they could use. But the only way I give up that kind of haul is for the final piece. At this point in time Thompson is not that. Besides, I'd rather have **Draymond Green.**

The Brooklyn Picks: Unless you know exactly what slot they're in or are totally turned off by the next two draft classes, you can't trade what could be two first-overall picks. That's how Cleveland handed **Magic Johnson** to L.A. on a silver platter in a trade for **Don Ford**. Yeah, that was worth it. The only way I do it is for **Anthony Davis** or maybe demented **Demarcus Cousins**. I'd probably also think about **Paul George**, if it also somehow included the big I just described.

Olynyk Option Not Picked Up: The occasional 20 night off the bench won't do it for me anymore until and unless the **Clay Buchholz** of basketball can (a) stay healthy for an entire season, (b) get back quicker after his numerous injuries than Buchholz himself, and (c) develop the consistency to let you know what you'll get night in and night out. So I'm fine with **Danny Ainge** letting him test free agency this summer so he can be cut loose if cap space is needed for a player who can help on a more consistent basis.

Where Do They Go From Here: I expected more than what I've seen so far. And while I expect things to get more consistent, time will tell whether they can turn those nice stretches into a 48-minute effort over a long string of games.

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UNH crushes Lehigh

The Big Story: With a dominating 64-21 win over Lehigh on Saturday, UNH has moved on to Round II of the NCAA football playoffs. If the glass is half full you see this win as a near perfect game played by the U at just the right time. If it's half empty you wonder how deep the talent pool could actually be in Division IAA football when a team with four losses runs the opponent out of the playoffs with a 64-point offensive effort with its starting QB **Trevor Knight** on the sidelines with an injury. Either way it does not matter, as, in the words of **Bill Belichick,** the Wildcats are on to Harrisburg, Virginia, for Saturday's 2 p.m. match-up with CAA rival James Madison.

Sports 101: Who holds the NBA record for most missed free throws in one game?

Hot Ticket: It's Saturday's 3:30 p.m. match-up on South River Road between Bentley and the SNHU Penmen, who started the week undefeated.

Stat Sheet: Back to the U for a second. When you score 64 points you expect big numbers on the offensive stat sheet. And that was the case in the running game, where **Dalton Crossan** ran for 184 yards on 24 carries and **Trevon Bryant** went for 113 on 11. Ditto for QB **Adam Riese**, who did yeoman work filling in for Knight by throwing for 273 yards and 3 TD passes with most of that going to sophomore wideout **Neil O'Connor**, who had seven catches for 171 yards and a TD.

Sports 101 Answer: Detroit center **Andre Drummond** broke the NBA record for most free throws missed set on Dec. 1, 1967, by bricking 23 of his 36 attempts in a win over Houston earlier this year on Jan. 21.

On This Date – Dec. 1: **1967 – Wilt Chamberlain** goes an astonishing 8 for 30 from the foul line in a blowout win over Seattle to set the NBA record for most missed free throws in one game**. 1973 – Jack Nicklaus** wins the $30,000 top prize at the Walt Disney World of Golf to becomes the first golfer to reach $2 million in career earnings on the PGA tour. **1984 – Doug Flutie** caps off his magical season by becoming Boston College's first Heisman Trophy winner and the 50th overall.

The Numbers

5 – starting assignments in the same number of games for the 3-2 UNH hoopsters by **Aliza Simpson** of the Londonderry Simpsons when the junior averaged 6.2 points per game to go along with 5.4 rebounds and 1.8 assists.

15 – not-bad-for-a-freshman career-high points scored by local alum **Wenyen Gabriel** in just his second start for 6-0 Kentucky in a 111-76 blowout of Tennessee-Martin on Friday night.

13 – consecutive seasons the UNH football team has gone to the NCAA playoffs, which brings them to within four of Montana's all-time record 17 straight playoff appearances.

21 – years between appearances in the national polls for the St. Anselm women, who were ranked 23rd nationally after a 3-0 start after not being there since 1995.

104 – points scored by the St. Anselm men when they got their first win of the year when they shot 61.1 percent from the field as a team in a 104-87 win over St. Michael's when **Tim Guers** had 30 points and 8 assists while **Harrison Taggart** and Londonderry's **Cody Ball** chipped in with 20 apiece.

Sports Glossary

Division I AA Football: Antiquated name still used by this reporter for the level of football played by the University of New Hampshire because the horrendous name currently used — Division I Sub Division — sounds too demeaning to say out loud.

David Lee: Longtime NBA double-double stalwart dumped by Boston after having trouble finding a role for **Brad Stevens** during three months with the C's. Much of his PT went to the inconsistent **Kelly Olynyk**, the same Kelly Olynyk who got toasted Friday by Lee when in going for 15-12 he gave the Spurs what the Celtics need to be regularly getting from K.O.

Jared Sullinger: Player I'd have kept last summer over the aforementioned Olynyk. But with everyone so in love with the 3-ball, they didn't because he's a coveted stretch 4, while I think losses pile up quicker when you're getting killed on the boards nightly because your bigs are outside launching threes.

Stretch 4: Name for dainty 6'11" players who prefer being way outside to the physical battles around the basket because they really want to play guard.

Scottie Pippen: Tonto to **Michael Jordan**'s Lone Ranger on the six-time NBA champion Chicago Bulls during the 1990s. The perfect complement to MJ because the cat-quick 6'8" Pippen was versatile enough to defend almost anyone but the big fellas in the middle. However, once he stepped out from MJ's shadow, it was four playoff one-and-dones in five tries.

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LOVE YOUR work space

7 steps to boost your 9-to-5 life

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

There's only so much coffee can do to perk up your office job.

That's evident to anyone who's experienced the dreaded 3 p.m. slump, and it's even worse in the winter, when getting fresh air requires bundling up and braving the cold — and the dark, if you can't manage to get out before 4 p.m.

But there are little things you can do to boost your energy physically and mentally throughout your day. Update your work wardrobe. Give your desk a makeover. Fill your lunch box with power foods. Or, get moving — create a deskercise routine, go for a walk or just stand up!

We talked with people of various expertise about these easy fixes, with the goal of helping you improve your 9-to-5 life by increasing productivity, focus, energy and overall happiness in the office — no caffeine necessary.

Step 1: Dress for success

If you dress like you're really good at your job, then people (including you) will get the message.

But it's an easy step to overlook, particularly if you're not client-facing or your workplace offers a casual dress code.

"You obviously need to be very skilled in what you do to be successful. A lot of people will go to school to really fine-tune their skills, but if they lack packaging, it's harder for other people to buy into it," Susan Osborne, a New Hampshire image consultant, said via phone. "When your message and your look match, that's the most successful form of communication."

Ideal attire varies from job to job. Lawyers and bankers probably need to wear suits, while tech professionals probably don't. Osborne said it comes down to one important question.

"I ask clients, what do you want to express? How do you want to be perceived? How do you want others to see you? That's really the starting point," she said.

If your office environment is more casual, then maybe less formal clothes are OK — just make certain they fit well, which Osborne said will always make someone appear more polished.

"Men specifically ask me, should I have a beard? Facial hair is perfectly fine, but you just need to offset it. Maybe your hair is cut clean and short. Everything comes down to balance," Osborne said.

There are some no-nos regardless of industry. Stained, ripped or wrinkled clothes will always look sloppy and lazy.

Some of her clients feel it's important to dress the part even at home.

"I've had clients who have home businesses, and they feel really strongly about showing up for themselves — about getting up in the morning, taking a shower, getting decent-looking clothes on and not wearing [their] pajamas. There's proof that when you look professional, you're going to act more professionally," Osborne said.

Step 2: Create an office haven

If you indulge in your workspace, it will make you feel more comfortable and theoretically more productive, said Hollis-based interior designer Meredith Bohn.

She advised starting with color. What hues help you get stuff done — calming, neutral tones or bright ones that are full of energy? Place those in your workspace, along with photos of things you like — family, friends, pets, the outdoors.

"Photos of your family are certainly important, because a lot of the time they're why you're working," Bohn said.

Clear plastic boxes might add order to chaos, but they can also be boring. Bohn uses bright leather boxes from The Container Store to organize papers and beautiful calendars and wipe boards to keep her on track and remind her of her goals.

Also take into account, what do you do? What do you need? What would be your

most efficient setup, and how much space do you have?

"Most people want a sense of order in their work space," Bohn said. "That doesn't mean you need to get a bunch of new furniture. It just means it needs to be well thought-out."

For example, Bohn's office contains a work table and desk because her job requires her to spread out. Clutter is typically distracting, but professional organizer Gretchen Poehlman said it's sometimes necessary to keep tools at the ready.

"Some people need all their tools out and visible, and so it can be cluttered," Poehlman said. "For me, if it's out of sight, then it's out of mind, and I can't function. … I have certain piling systems. That works for me. It's not wrong. If it works for you, then it's organized."

If you have limited space and want to keep things in sight, perhaps keep papers in a three-ring binder in front of you, or stacked in some sort of wall organizing system so they're "away" but still visible. Or, Poehlman said, maybe there's a drawer in your desk you can leave open.

If you're working at home, designating a specific workspace is key.

"I think it's important that, when you work from home, you go to work — you go to a special, designated spot that you work at. Psychologically, I think that's super important, as opposed to randomly floating around your house," Bohn said.

Step 3: Organize your day effectively

What are your goals today? Tomorrow? What takes priority?

This will help you design your most efficient and effective day, no matter your job, Poehlman said. So will sticking to one thing at a time.

"A lot of people think you want to be a good multi-tasker. But there's no such thing as a good multi-tasker. You can't be doing three things really well at a time," Poehlman said. "You want to be focused on something, and to be the most efficient at it, you really want to concentrate on it."

Poehlman likes to color-code her calendar in terms of tasks. Business items, the most important, are green (because they'll earn her money), while things out of the office, like grocery shopping, might be orange. She suggested blocking off chunks of time to do things in the same way you might a dentist appointment.

"I take one morning a week to do all my paperwork or advertising," Poehlman said. "That way, I'm able to maximize my week to make money versus spend it on filing. … I find that, for a lot of people, that's not necessarily a no-brainer, especially if you're working from home. … You end up zig-zagging all over your day, and you haven't accomplished much because you haven't given anything a dedicated focus."

The same idea can be incorporated in holding meetings.

"If you're hosting a meeting, have an agenda! That works!" Poehlman said. "Maybe email people beforehand and say, 'Can we stick to these three to four items?' And agree to focus on this. I know a lot of times meetings end up being an hour longer than they're supposed to be. You need to communicate about what is going to be accomplished."

Obviously, things come up. The doorbell rings. Someone needs you ASAP. So your system needs to be flexible. But at the same time, Poehlman said it's important to make a detailed plan of the day ahead — ideally, on one calendar.

"If you've got more than one, chances are good you're going to forget or lose something," she said.

4. Stand up and stretch

Being inside doesn't mean you need to glue your butt to your chair all day. In fact, you really shouldn't.

Dr. Sam Sanzone, a Concord chiropractor, said the medical community is finding that desk-related work stresses have about as many long-term hazards as smoking.

At the beginning of his career, work-related injuries were caused by physically laborious jobs. Today, it's the opposite. It's back or neck pain, shoulder tension or carpal tunnel syndrome. If you find yourself regularly stressed at work, it's worse.

"It's very well-documented that whenever we have a mentally or emotionally stressful situation going on, whether it's work-related or otherwise, our bodies have a physiological response," Sanzone said. "Everyone has probably experienced their shoulders tightening up in a stressful situation. If they have any spinal misalignments, those contracted muscles can pull those out even further, which can stress the spinal cord and nerve system."

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15 can do.

Sanzone recently held a "Keep Fit While You Sit" class with the Concord Food Co-op and works with many clients on creating workplace exercises and stretches that alleviate or prevent these symptoms.

First on the agenda is to make certain you regularly change positions, at least once an hour. If you need reminders, try setting alarms on your phone.

Many of his clients have found great success working at a desk that allows them to switch between sitting and standing all day (though the switching part is key; standing all day, he said, is just as bad as sitting all day). Other clients have used stability balls as chairs, which he said can help strengthen your core and thus prevent back pain. They may even help you focus.

"I've heard of elementary school classrooms bringing [stability balls] in for the students to sit on, and it helps them maintain their focus — they're not just idly sitting, they're actively sitting," Sanzone said.

When you are sitting, think about your posture — make sure you have a chair that can support your lower back, and adjust it so your knees are at a right angle. Keep feet hip-width apart, not locked but engaged, and keep them facing forward along with hips and shoulders. Your head should also be forward, not looking down; achieving this position may involve adjusting monitor height.

And, whenever you can, stretch. You can do this while sitting down (rotate your neck, or stretch your shoulders by straightening your spine and raising them to your ears) or standing up (put your hands on your hips and bend backward).

"We need to realize our bodies were not made to be stagnant. They were made to move," Sanzone said. "And if the demands of our workplaces don't allow that, then it's our responsibility to move them."

5. Get moving

"Exercise is like an elixir. I think a lot of people don't realize the importance of it mentally," said Danielle Rheault, co-owner at Fortitude Health and Training, via phone.

She can see the effect of exercise in her clients, especially those who come in at noon Monday through Friday. They arrive with scowls and leave with relaxed shoulders and smiles.

"So many people have said to me, 'I'm much more effective at work after a workout. I feel refreshed, rebooted,'" Rheault said. "I see it all the time, and I feel it myself."

Don't have time for a 45-minute workout? There are little things you can do throughout your workday without ever leaving the office. Like using the bathroom on the floor above or below, if you work in a large building. Or, instead of emailing coworkers, get up and go to talk to them. If you're on a conference call, stand up, walk around or perform simple exercises as you talk.

"Most people are on a Bluetooth device — you can sit with your hands on the back of a chair and do lunges while talking on the phone, or squat while holding on to the chair," Rheault said.

There are exercises you can do sitting down, too. Rheault suggested one that involves holding a water bottle in one hand while raising that arm in front of you — voila, a shoulder workout! You can tap your feet to work your calves, raise your knees to work your quads or sit tall and think about contracting your abdominals for a quick core workout.

If you're able to get out of your chair for a minute, throw in a 30- or 60-second exercise — lunges, push-ups or planks in the hallway, or wall-sits near your desk.

Feeling self-conscious?

"That's fine! Do them in the hallway or the stairwell. Do something in the bathroom. Do something for any period of time. It's not like, 'Oh my God, I have to fit a 45-minute workout into my day.' Little bursts add up," Rheault said. "Some people don't like doing these kinds of things at work. But you can find a buddy. … Challenge somebody to a wall sit in the hallway. ... You can make it fun."

6. Recharge

Sometimes, to get more work done, you just have to leave — either physically or mentally. One option is to take a walk. (For ideas near your workplace, check out the side box.)

"I can't express the value enough of getting outside, even if it's for three minutes. Most people say, 'I don't have time to leave the desk.' Everyone has time to get out and walk around the block. It causes positive endorphins to move through your body. [Afterward], people seem to become more alive, more awake. It enhances their senses, and they just feel better," Rheault said. "Vitamin D is essential. It can change your mood."

Another option is to give meditation a try. All it takes is about five minutes and a secluded space, said Sylvie Stewart, who practices with the Nashua Buddhist Meditation group. Your car, a conference room or even your office can work, if there's a door you can shut.

During those five minutes, Stewart said, you need to close your eyes and sit still in an erect position. Observe your breathing and how you feel, but otherwise, think about nothing.

"Any time a thought arises, you say to yourself, 'There's a thought.' And then let it go. Apply focus on your breath," Stewart said. "You really want to try the let the breathing happen, if that makes sense. You're observing your own breathing. If it's fast, it's fast. If it's shallow, it's shallow. It boils down to the simplicity of

18 ▶

TAKE A WALK

Suck it up, bundle up and go outside — you'll be happy you did. Here are some ideas for walking near downtown Manchester, Concord and Nashua.

Manchester

Heritage/Piscataquog Trail: The City of Manchester's Heritage Trail follows the Merrimack River and passes by old mill buildings. It connects to a pedestrian bridge along the Piscataquog Trail, which parallels this river for about two miles in the opposite direction.

The Rockingham Trail: The 10-foot-wide unpaved trail technically goes all the way to the Seacoast, but there's a particularly accessible section by Lake Massabesic, where there's easy parking along the water, that's typically full of walkers and joggers.

Concord

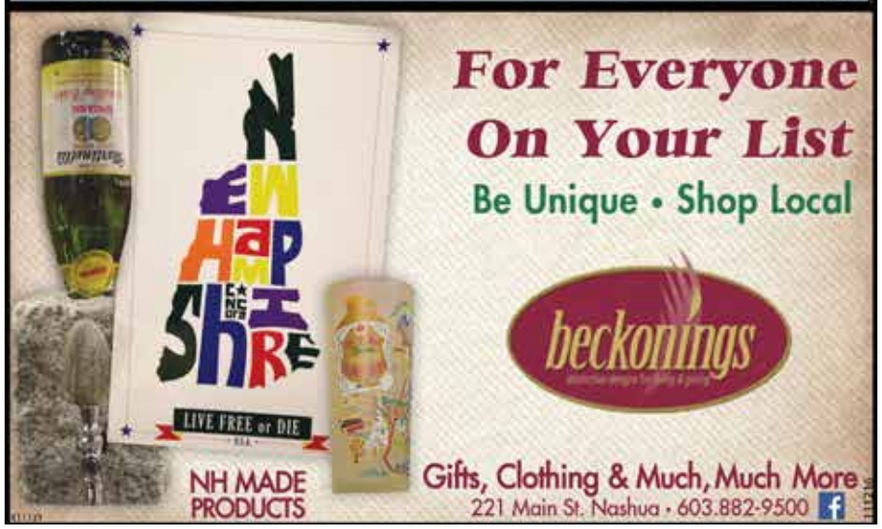
Historic walking tour: Directions and a map of the tour are available at the Chamber of Commerce website (concordnhchamber.com). The tour stops by a variety of historic sites like the Statehouse, the Clock Tower and Eagle Square, Phenix Hall and a variety of others. (Actually, there are 62 stops on this map; it might keep you busy all winter.) The tour has become especially pedestrian-friendly since the completion of the Concord Main Street Project this fall.

White Park: Sean Gray, who manages the Concord Runner's Alley, said he frequently takes the store's running groups to White Park, where there are walking trails that weave around ponds, a playground, a picnic shelter, soccer and baseball fields, basketball courts, etc.

Nashua

Nashua Riverwalk: The walk, which you can learn more about at nashuanh.gov, takes you along the Nashua River and by a number of Gate City sites — the library, Jackson Falls, sculpture, the Cotton Transfer Bridge and both Renaissance and Bicentennial Park.

Nashua Heritage Rail Trail: The walking trail goes about 1.2 miles from City Hall onward, and along it you'll find around 20 public murals, plus a segment of free wall art, which is repainted on a regular basis. Paul Shea, director of Great American Downtown, said funding has been secured to build a footbridge connecting the Heritage Rail Trail to Mine Falls Park.



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17 being in the present moment."

Stewart tries to meditate every day because it brings her clarity.

"You might notice that suddenly you're putting things in better perspective. You're seeing the larger picture of things. You might also notice that you feel more a sense of interconnectedness with the people around you," she said. "You might feel more compassion. More kindness. … But if you're goal-oriented or judging what you're doing, or if you have too many thoughts, you've missed the point. The point is simply to do it."

7. Fuel and refuel

The most important things you eat all day should be at breakfast, lunch and your 3 p.m. snack — not dinner.

"Because food is energy. You don't need energy to sleep," said New Hampshire dietitian and Nutrition in Motion founder Kim Dorval via phone.

The most energy-boosting meals are non-processed and combine carbs, protein and healthy fats. Keep these a priority, and you might actually be able to avoid that afternoon slump and temptation to replace fuel with coffee.

"A lot of times, we have a lull in the afternoon because we skipped lunch. So we just go to coffee to give us energy. But coffee is not energy," she said. "Coffee basically stimulates you by telling your adrenals to fire cortisol — it will give you a false sense of energy."

For best results, Dorval said you should avoid grazing.

"Have breakfast, and go back to eating an egg sandwich or an omelette with sweet potato fries, things like that," Dorval said. "One of the most important things is to have protein with every meal. … It releases dopamine, which helps us focus. … The worst thing you can do is not eat protein at lunch, and then at 3 p.m. you have low blood sugar so you walk by the candy dish. That will spike your blood sugar, and then a half hour later you will need more sugar or caffeine to keep you going."

Good lunch and snack choices include nuts, fruit, cheese, vegetables with hummus, Greek yogurt or lunch meat without additives or preservatives (like MSG, which will only make you tired). Even beef jerky can work if it's good quality with low sodium content. She said it doesn't make much of a difference whether nuts are raw or roasted, though organic is better, and so is all-natural nut butter.

As for bread, whole wheat isn't necessarily the answer; many are enriched and contain high-fructose corn syrup. Dorval suggested going for sprouted grain bread, which has a low gluten content and is the least processed with no additives. (You have to buy it in the freezer aisle, and store it that way when you're not using it; otherwise it will go moldy fast.)

If you're going to go with a salad, choose a dressing with few ingredients. She said she likes Newman's and Cindy's Kitchen.

"I'm not a fan of low fat, or any of that other stuff. Most salad dressings have healthy fats in them, like olive oil," she said.

If you're tight on time, she said to carve a small space in your work fridge and keep staples there for your week. Or make your lunch on the weekend in the form of vegetable soup with low-sodium broth or chili. If your job requires you to be on the go, pack a cooler.

In the winter months, it's especially important to keep hydrated; dehydration can definitely "zap your energy," Dorval said, and it's easy to forget about.

"Dehydration is even more significant in the winter because people don't feel like drinking water as much because it is cold," she said. "Also, the indoor heat sucks water out of us."

Aim to consume half your body weight in ounces of water a day; this can be in the form of straight water, herbal teas, broth-based soups, fruits and vegetables.

You may be surprised at the difference you see, Dorval said, at work and afterward.

"People say, 'I got home and I had energy to get stuff done!'" Dorval said.

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THIS WEEK

EVENTS TO CHECK OUT DECEMBER 1 - 7, 2016, AND BEYOND

Thursday, Dec. 1

Join Intown Manchester for the annual **Downtown Holiday Market** as it returns to the Brady Sullivan Plaza (1000 Elm St.) for four days, beginning Thursday, Dec. 1, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Shop from dozens of local artisans and craft vendors. The market will also be open on Thursday, Dec. 8, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 10, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Thursday, Dec. 15, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Visit intownmanchester.com or call 645-6285 for more details.

Saturday, Dec. 3

Experience Christmas in a simpler era at Canterbury Shaker Village (288 Shaker Road) Saturday, Dec. 3, from 3 to 8 p.m. At the annual **Christmas at Canterbury** event, visitors can meet Santa, watch a magic show, make holiday crafts, decorate gingerbread cookies and more. A second event will be held Saturday, Dec. 10, from 3 to 8 p.m. The cost is $18 for adults, $8 for ages 6 to 17, and free for 5 and under. Visit shakers.org.

Saturday, Dec. 3

The Millyard Museum (200 Bedford St., Manchester) will host its annual **Holiday Open House** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Enjoy children's crafts, holiday storytimes, old-fashioned board games, cookies and more. Santa will be taking photos from 10 to 11 a.m. Admission is free. Visit manchesterhistoric.org or call 622-7531.

Saturday, Dec. 3

Make a gift for a loved one at the Brown Lane Barn (52 Brown Lane, Hollis) at a **greens-gathering and wreath-making workshop** from 1 to 3:30 p.m. The workshop will follow a hiking trip with members of the Beaver Brook Association to gather evergreens to fashion a holiday wreath. Tickets are $25 per person. Visit beaverbrook.org or call 465-7787.

Tuesday, Dec. 6

Husband-and-wife folk duo **The Weepies** will perform a show at the Tupelo Music Hall (2 Young Road, Londonderry) at 8 p.m. Made up of singer-songwriters Deb Talan and Steve Tannen, the group has sold more than a million records. Tickets start at $45. Visit tupelohalllondonderry.com or call 437-5100.

EAT: chocolate

Join the Concord Public Library (45 Green St.) in welcoming chef Liz Barbour for a **demonstration on cooking with chocolate** on Thursday, Dec. 1, at 6 p.m. Barbour will be demonstrating two recipes and giving out samples in the library's auditorium. The event is free but registration is required by signing up at the service desk. Visit concordpubliclibrary.net or call 225-8670.

DRINK: tea

Grace Ministries International (263 Route 125, Brentwood) will hold its annual **Christmas Tea Royalty Reception** on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 5:30 p.m. The event will include food, tea, entertainment and more. Tickets are $25. Visit gracemi.org or call 905-9109.

BE MERRY: for Midnight Merriment

Hit the streets of downtown Concord for the city's 24th annual **Midnight Merriment** on Friday, Dec. 2, from 5:30 p.m. to midnight. Do some shopping as you experience the old-fashioned hospitality of the Capital City through the uniquely decorated windows and historic buildings. Visit intownconcord.org or call 226-2150.

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ARTS

Back in business

Picker artists invite all to new Pine Street home

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

After a year of uncertainty, Nashua's Picker Building artists are back.

Nowadays, they call themselves the Picker Collaborative Artists, which is the name of the LLC they put together in order to begin renting at their new home at 3 Pine St. This weekend, they celebrate finally getting their certificate of occupancy with a grand opening and holiday open house.

"This is our baby. I love the fact that it's ours," jewelry artist Gail Moriarty said during an interview at the new place a few weeks before the opening.

At the time, there was still so much to do; molding needed to go up on doors and windows, and most artists were still unpacking. But there were hints that the end was in sight. Newly hung plants decorated the hallways, and outside Moriarty's door a light box made by glass artists Mark and Kathleen Frank was waiting to go up.

Moriarty was stressed but, as she explained during a tour of the new facility, it was a good kind of stress, a different kind of stress from what artists felt last fall when longtime Picker Building owner Jack Bolger announced to his tenants he was going to retire and had accepted an offer from Clocktower Place Apartments to buy the building. The 20-plus artists had hoped to stay together but didn't know where they would go. Moriarty led the charge.

But finding the venue proved to be difficult. The artists wanted a place downtown with cheap rent and accessible parking, which is hard to find in the city. They also wanted to use the building for retail and as a makerspace — uses that have different building and zoning requirements. And not everyone wanted to take them in.

"People outright said to me, 'I'm not renting to artists,'" Moriarty said.

One of the issues was that landlords didn't want to rent to 20 people. They wanted to work with one entity — which is how Moriarty came to partner with the Franks to form the Picker Artists Collaborative LLC.

"They just needed to become a formal, legal entity to make themselves marketable," Nashua's Community Development Division Director Sarah Marchant said via phone.

Throughout the year, the Picker artists' numbers dwindled. The ones from Massachusetts and Manchester found art studios closer to their homes. When their numbers reached 13, Moriarity decided to take another look at 3 Pine St., an old mill building owned by Gate City Fence. It had been one of the first places she'd looked at early on in the search, but it was too small to house more than 20 artists. Thirteen, though, would be doable.

Rent there would be one third the cost of other downtown Nashua options, and Moriarty liked that it contained parking and was close to Broad Street Parkway.

The Picker Collaborative Artists' new building at 3 Pine St. Courtesy photo.

Then came the issue of capital. The community stepped in with donations of all kinds — emotional, manual, financial — and Mark Frank said Gate City Fence owner Ken Forrence Jr. was helpful from the beginning, working with the artists to bring the building up to code.

But everyone would have to downsize.

For the Franks, this was an inconvenience, not a deal-breaker; it required getting rid of tools they hadn't touched in a decade. It was a small price to pay, he said, when you consider their new top-floor space is surrounded by windows, perfect to display their glass art.

"It is a lot smaller, but it's much more visible, with the new parkway coming through here, compared with before, when we were buried underground," Mark Frank said. "In the other place, sometimes we wouldn't see pieces with natural light going through them until somebody bought them and we helped carry them outside. Now we have morning and afternoon sunlight coming in on three sides of the studio, which is nice."

Moriarty and the Franks signed the lease July 28 and began working on it full time Aug. 1. Anything they didn't need to hire professionals for they did themselves — demolition, doors, windows, floors, you name it.

Moriarty met regularly with city representatives to make sure they were still on track to open by Christmas.

It's a little riskier for the Franks and Moriarty, who are managing the rest of the artists' rent and charging pretty much what it costs them to stay there. Leading this endeavor also meant a break from art production.

"I almost had to close my business for a year to get it done," Moriarty said.

The building was a Baptist church before, and the artists wanted to keep the integrity of the building. Light spills through the mill windows on the second floor, and the walls don't quite reach to the ceiling. This way, you can see the old church's exposed beams and sloped ceilings.

"If somebody sneezes four studios over, you're going to hear them. But that's OK. We all get along fairly well here," Mark Frank said.

Marchant has been working with Moriarty throughout the process and is glad to see the effort has paid off.

"As for the city, we feel the Picker artists, and all our artists downtown, are a massively wonderful resource, part of the fabric of our community. It would have been a giant loss for our community if they disbanded or separated, or moved to other towns, so it was a high priority for the community development office that this group of artists stay downtown," Marchant said.

Picker Collaborative Artists Grand Opening and Holiday Open House

Where: 3 Pine St., Nashua (a mill owned by Gate City Fence)
When: Saturday, Dec. 3, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 4, noon to 4 p.m.
Contact: pickerartists.com, hello@pickerartists.com, 930-5080
The artists: Bonnie Guercio, mixed media; Albert Wilkinson, embossing, engraving, photography and photo restoration; Cindy Goodman, quilting; Tanya Prather, fiber arts; Kathleen and Mark Frank, glass art; Gail Moriarty, jewelry artist and metal clay instructor; D. Christine Lehmkuhl, jewelry artist; Cindy Loranger, painter; Sid Ceaser, photography; Darold Rorabacher, woodworking; Patricia Ahern, visual art, Krystal Manning, quilting

22 Art
Includes listings for gallery events, ongoing exhibits and classes. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

23 Theater
Includes listings, shows, auditions, workshops and more. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

25 Classical
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Art

Events

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• **ARTALK: LANDSCAPE OF DESIRE** Presentation by Curator Kurt Sundstrom on new acquisition, a two-sided painting by German Expressionist artist Max Pechstein with Museum Educator Ann Bible. Sat., Dec. 3, at 2 p.m. Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Free with museum admission. Visit currier.org.

• **MASSABESIC AUDUBON CENTER NH WILD PHOTO AUCTION FUNDRAISER** Photos ready for hanging, silent auction through Dec. 4. Sun., Dec. 4, 2-3 p.m. Massabesic Audubon Center, 26 Audubon Way, Auburn. Call 668-2045.

• **FREE NEW HAMPSHIRE SATURDAY** Free general admission at museum before noon. Sat., Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-noon. Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Visit currier.org. Call 669-6144.

• **CREATIVE STUDIO: WOOD ORNAMENTS** Decorate your own wooden ornament in the museum's studio spaces. Sat., Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Free admission for NH residents.

• **ALZHEIMER'S CAFE** Opportunity for people with Alzheimer's and dementia—along with their loved ones and caregivers—to enjoy art and good company in a safe space. Wed., Dec. 14, 2-4 p.m. Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Free.

• **FOCUS TOUR: WINTER WONDERLANDS IN THE CURRIER COLLECTION** Tour of that focuses on majestic images of winter and weather in the Currier collection. Sat., Dec. 17, at 11:30 a.m. Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester.

LOCAL COLOR

NH art world news

• **Get shopping:** Thanksgiving has come and gone, so now you can listen to holiday music and go Christmas shopping with abandon — good news, because this weekend there are so many different places to buy some locally made goodies. One is the Craftworkers' Guild Holiday Craft Shop (open till Dec. 22, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day) at the Oliver Kendall House on Meetinghouse Road, Bedford. Another is the Intown Manchester Holiday Market, open Thursdays, Dec. 1 through Dec. 15, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. each day, plus Saturday, Dec. 10, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Brady Sullivan Plaza, 1000 Elm St., Manchester. And Winter Giftopolis organized by the Concord Arts Market is Friday, Dec. 2, from 6:30 to 11 p.m., at Eagle Square, Concord, part of the city's Midnight Merriment celebration. Visit concordartsmarket.net/winter-giftopolis.html.

• **In living color:** The New Hampshire Institute of Art features a solo exhibition by New Hampshire-based artist John Sirois from Dec. 2 through Dec. 23 at the Sharon Arts Center exhibition gallery, 30 Grove St., Peterborough, with a reception Friday, Dec. 2, from 5 to 7 p.m. The Peterborough artist has been exhibited at the National Arts Club in New York, the Audubon Artists Society in New York and the Currier Museum of Art, and on view is a selection of his colorful, textured paintings. On view in the community gallery is a collection of handmade, functional and decorative stoneware by NHIA faculty member Maureen Mills, including vases, boxes and jars. Visit nhia.edu or email exhibitions@nhia.edu.

Leanne Tremblay selling woven art in a past Winter Giftopolis. Katy Brown Solsky photo.

• **Two-part show:** Also opening this weekend is a two-part show at 3S Artspace, 319 Vaughan St., Portsmouth. "Inherent Growth" features work by Rachel and Joe Montroy, and "Garden of Earthly Delights" features work by Ellen Wetmore. Both are on view Nov. 26 through Dec. 23, with an opening Friday, Dec. 2, from 5 to 8 p.m. For "Inherent Growth," the duo created small-scale artwork; Rachel Montroy created ceramic sculpture and pottery that references natural objects, while Joe Montroy worked in metal. Wetmore's show is the result of a project to produce a drawing a day. Visit 3Sarts.org.

• **New sculptures in town:** The City of Concord has rented two sculptures for the year as "finishing touches" on the redesigned Main Street, according to a recent press release. "Time of Wonder" is a bronze piece by Beverly Benson Seamans, who has had solo exhibits at Harvard, MIT and the Peabody Essex Museum, and "One Bright Morning" is by Murray Dewart, a founding member of Boston Sculptors who has exhibited internationally, from Boston to Peru and China. — *Kelly Sennott*

Openings

• **ARTFUL GIFT GIVING 2016** Featuring affordable pottery, jewelry, paintings, indoor and outdoor sculpture, mobiles. On view Dec. 1 through Dec. 24. Mill Brook Gallery, 236 Hopkinton Road, Concord. Visit themillbrookgallery.com. Call 226-2046.

• **"CATCHING LUMINANCE"** Featuring photography by Deborah Gray. On view Nov. 28 through Jan. 27. Reception Thurs., Dec. 1, 6-7 p.m. Derryfield Lyceum Gallery, 2108 Manchester Road, Manchester. Call 669-4524, ext. 2201. Visit derryfield.org. Email lyceumgallery@derryfield.org.

• **"JUXTAPOSITIONS"** Photography exhibition featuring work by Jean Stimmell. On view through Jan. 7. Reception Fri., Dec. 2, 5-7 p.m. Epsom Public Library, 1610 Dover Road, Epsom. Visit epsomlibrary.com.

• **HOLIDAY ARTISTS RECEPTION AND SHOW** Featuring more than 20 artists, with refreshments and raffles. Sat., Dec. 3, 5-7 p.m. The Frame Depot, 227 Union Square, Milford. Visit theframedepotnh.com.

• **"2016, A STATE OF MIND: BOSTON PRINTMAKERS"** Exhibition featuring works of nearly 150 artist members from The Boston Printmakers. On view through Dec. 10. Mini-holiday art sale Wed., Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. showcasing art and craft works by Phillips Exeter employees. Phillips Exeter, 11 Tan Lane, Exeter. Visit exeter.edu/lamont-gallery. Call 777-3461.

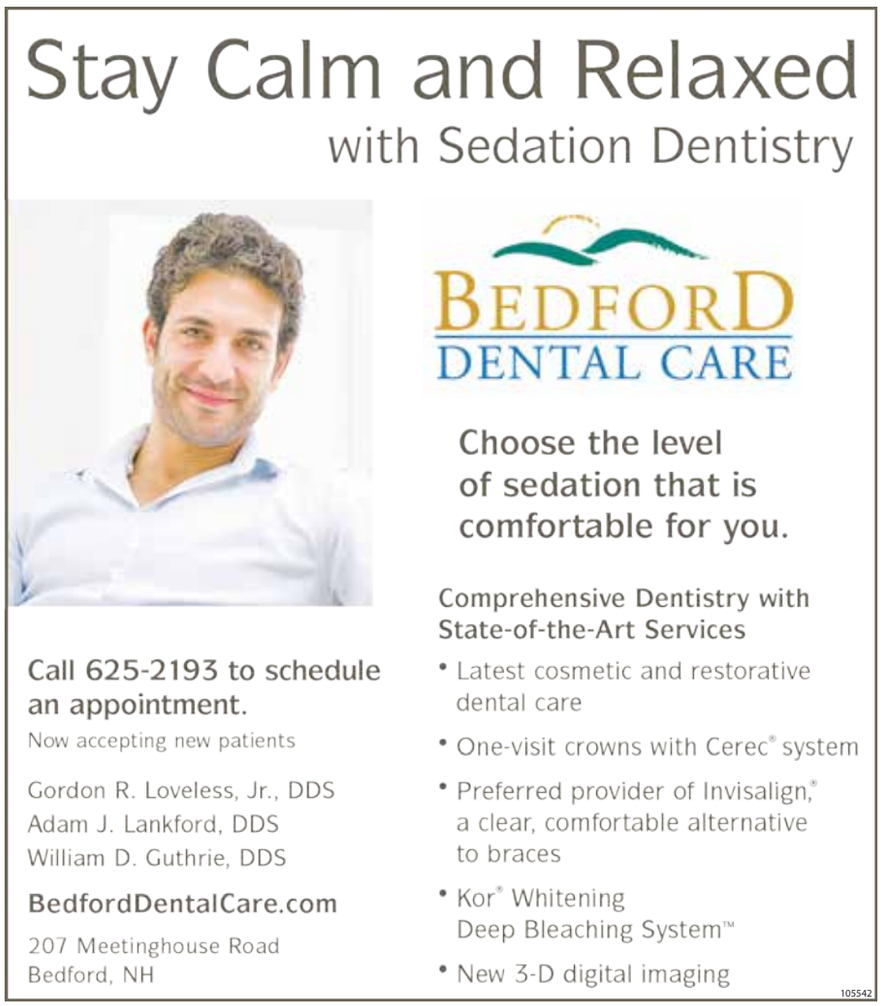
Theater

Productions

• ***A CHRISTMAS CAROL*** Hatbox Theatre production. Nov. 25, through Dec. 18. Hatbox Theatre, 270 Loudon Road, Concord. $16.50. Visit hatboxnh.com, call 715-2315.

• ***A CHRISTMAS CAROL*** Great-great-grandson of Charles Dickens, Gerald Charles Dickens, show. Wed., Nov. 30, at 7 p.m. Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2 Somerset Parkway, Nashua. $22.50. Call 882-3371, fortingage.com.

• ***A CHRISTMAS CAROL*** Leddy Center for the Performing Arts production. Dec. 2 through Dec. 11, performances Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays and Wednesdays at 2 p.m. Leddy Center for the Performing



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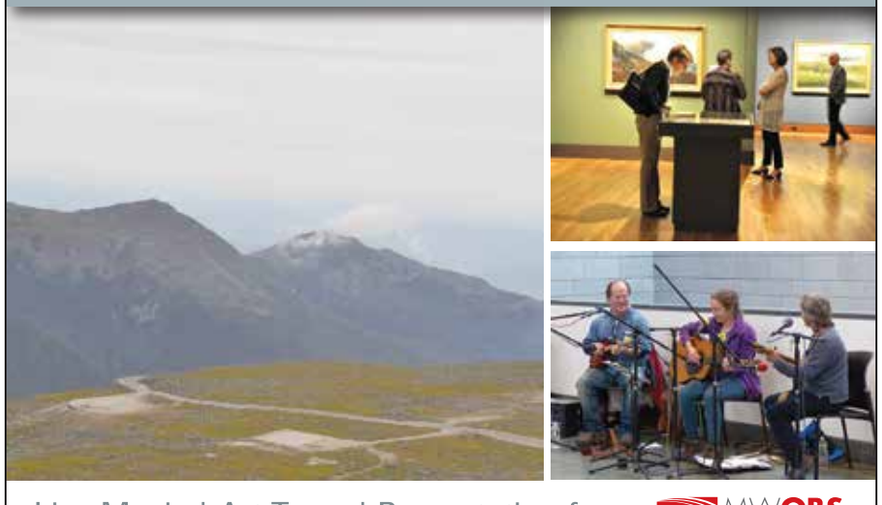

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ARTS

Christmas spirit

Palace continues its tradition with *A Christmas Carol*

The Palace Theatre presents *A Christmas Carol* starting this weekend. Courtesy photo.

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

The Palace Theatre's *A Christmas Carol* should, by design, get you into the holiday spirit, at least for a few hours, no matter what else is going on in your world.

"I lost my mother at Christmastime. So this time is very hard for me," Artistic Director Carl Rajotte said during an interview at the theater last week.

When Rajotte first came to the Palace 15 years ago, Executive Director Peter Ramsey asked him to rewrite the play to be "light and happy."

"That was difficult for me," Rajotte said. "So I had to get back into it with two feet and figure out what I loved about Christmas."

He decided to direct with kids in mind. Dolls come to life, and ghosts arrive onstage with the help of "special effects galore" and giant puppets. Sets include streets covered in snow and holiday-decorated windows. Whenever Rajotte is trying to gauge how kids will interpret something, he looks to the production's 137 child actors.

"Everyone's inner child comes out at Christmastime," Rajotte said. "I try to hit upon those things that give people goosebumps and make them remember times with their family."

> "I try to hit upon those things that give people goosebumps and make them remember times with their family."
>
> CARL RAJOTTE

The show, which hits the stage Dec. 3 through Dec. 23, has become a Manchester tradition in many respects. Along with 18 actors from New York, the Palace's *A Christmas Carol* features some of the same actors from past years, including Mark Nichols and George Piehl splitting the role of Scrooge and youth theater administrator/company manager Meghan Quinn as Mrs. Fezziwig. Audience members may even recognize some of the play's kids.

"There are kids who started doing *A Christmas Carol* when they were 8 years old, and they're here until they're seniors in high school. So it's their tradition every year too," Quinn said.

This version contains music by New Hampshire composer and production music director Joel Mercier, which he wrote about three years ago when the production got a makeover. Mercier had known the show well — he'd performed as Mr. Fezziwig back in the day and worked closely with Rajotte to create sounds and tunes to push the plot and set the mood.

"It was fun to be able to sit with him and dissect exactly what I needed within the song, and it was interesting to be able to design it from the ground up," Rajotte said. "I think that's pulled this production into a newer, better place."

Every year's *Christmas Carol* contains mild changes, from props and costumes to lines and character interpretations. But Rajotte thinks it's the tradition that makes people come back.

"I enjoy the excitement everyone has when they talk about *A Christmas Carol*, especially the children," Rajotte said. "It's like the feeling of Christmas morning, except from November to December."

A Christmas Carol

Where: Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester
When: Friday, Dec. 2, through Friday, Dec. 23
Admission: $25-$45
Contact: palacetheatre.org, 668-5588

ARTS

CURTAIN CALL

Notes from the theater scene

The Nashua Choral Society, who present Handel's "Messiah" this weekend. Courtesy photo.

• **Get ready for "Messiah:"** It's "Messiah" season in New Hampshire, and this weekend there are plenty of chances to hear the iconic music by Handel. There's a concert featuring the 75-member Concord Community Chorus this weekend, with a dress rehearsal Saturday, Dec. 3, at 10 a.m. and a live performance Sunday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m., at the South Congregational Church, 27 Pleasant St., Concord, which is free, but seating is limited. The Nashua Choral Society presents a concert Sunday, Dec. 4, at 3 p.m., at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 216 E. Dunstable Road, Nashua, which will be assisted by members of the Nashua Choral Orchestra. The concert will be led by Philip Lauriat and harpsichordist Brett Greene and feature singers Maxwell McGrath, Kim Lamoureux, Alexandra Dietrich and Giovanni Spano. Visit nashuachoralsociety.org or call 998-0443 for tickets, which are $18. Also, this year's Mont Vernon Messiah Sing! concerts are Saturday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 4, at 4 p.m., at the Mont Vernon Congregational Church, 4 S. Main St., Mont Vernon. Scores will be available for $10.

• **Tale as old as time:** The Music Hall and the Ogunquit Playhouse present *Beauty and the Beast* at the Music Hall Historic Theater, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, Nov. 30 through Dec. 18. The production is set to a score by Alan Menken and the late Howard Ashman but features new songs by Menken and Tim Rice. Playing the title roles are Catherine Charlebois (who recently performed in *Wicked* as Nessarose on Broadway and the national tour) as Belle and Jason Michael Evans (who also has many regional credits to his name) as Beast. Tickets are $42 to $92. Visit themusichall.org or call 766-2182.

• **Theater in art:** The Sharon Arts Center, 30 Grove St., Peterborough, features an exhibition, "The Performance of Space," on view Dec. 2 through Dec. 23, with an opening reception Friday, Dec. 2, from 5 to 7 p.m. The show contains work by New Hampshire-based artist and NHIA faculty member Glen Scheffer, who traveled the East Coast documenting and photographing iconic buildings from 2009 to 2011, including the Boston Public Library, the Phillips Exeter Academy Library, the New Bedford Whaling Museum and the Peterborough Players Theater. The show is free; visit nhia.edu, email exhibitions@nhia.edu or call 836-2585.

— *Kelly Sennott*

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Arts, 38 C Ladd's Lane, Epping. $20. Visit leddycenter.org.

• ***IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE*** Seacoast Repertory Theatre production. 125 Bow St., Portsmouth. Dec. 2 through Dec. 23. Tickets $17-$30. Visit seacoastrep.org.

• ***A CHRISTMAS CAROL*** Players' Ring production. Dec. 2 through Dec. 23. The Players' Ring, 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth. $15. Visit playersring.org.

• ***A CHRISTMAS CAROL*** Palace Theatre production. Dec. 2 through Dec. 23. Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. $25-$45. Call 668-5588. Visit palacetheatre.org.

• ***A CHRISTMAS CAROL*** Leddy Center production. Dec. 2 through Dec. 22. Leddy Center for the Performing Arts, 38C Ladd's Lane, Epping. $20. leddycenter.org.

• ***GREAT EXPECTATIONS*** New Hampshire Theatre Project. Nov. 18 through Dec. 4. Fridays and Saturdays 8 p.m. Sundays at 2 p.m. West End Studio Theatre, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth. $28. Call 431-6644. Email reservations@nhtheatreproject.org.

• ***A HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR*** Concord Dance Academy show. Sat., Dec. 3, at 1 and 6 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 4, at 1 p.m. Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. $15. Call 226-0200.

• ***THE NUTCRACKER*** Dance Visions Network production. Sun., Dec. 4, at 1 and 6 p.m. Dana Center for the Humanities, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester. $18. dancevisionsnetwork.com.

• ***TALES TOLD: HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS*** Holiday-themed stories by locals, series inspired by The Moth. Tues., Dec. 6, at 7:30 p.m. Hatbox Theatre, 270 Loudon Road, Concord. $16.50. talestoldproductions.com.

• ***THE SANTALAND DIARIES*** Peterborough Players production. Dec. 7 through Dec. 17. Peterborough Players Theatre, 55 Hadley Road, Peterborough. $39. peterboroughplayers.org, 924-9344.

• ***ELF: THE MUSICAL, JR.*** Peacock Players. Dec. 9-18. Janice B. Streeter Theater, 14 Court St., Nashua. $12-$17.

Classical Music Events

• **HOLIDAY POPS CONCERT** Manchester Community Music School concert. Fri., Dec. 2, at 7 p.m. Manchester Community Music School, 2291 Elm St., Manchester. $40. Visit mcmusicschool.org or call 644-4548.

• **CHRISTMAS CAROLS WITH STREETCAR COMPANY** Fri., Dec. 2, at 6 p.m. Taylor Community, 435 Union Ave., Laconia. taylorcommunity.org

• **WHERE ARE YOU CHRISTMAS?** Profile Chorus concert. Featuring guests Boston Accent, plus Musicality and No Kiddin'. Sat., Dec. 3, at 2 and 7 p.m. SNHU Banquet Hall, 2500 N. River Road, Manchester. $20. profilechorus.org, 490-8247.

• **DECEMBER SONG** Service of readings and songs celebrating the Advent and Christmas seasons by Saint Anselm College Choir. Sat., Dec. 3, at 7:30 p.m. Saint Anselm College Choir, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester. Free. 641-7700, anselm.edu.

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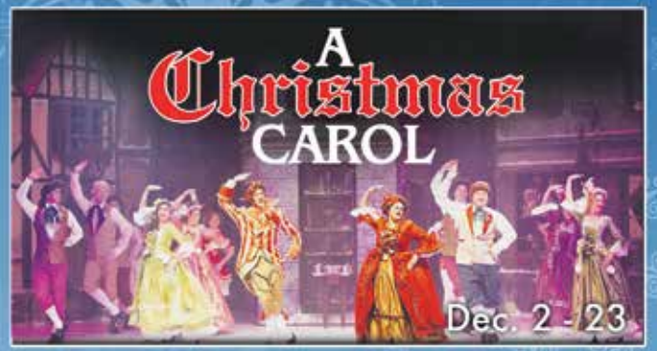

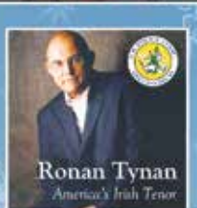

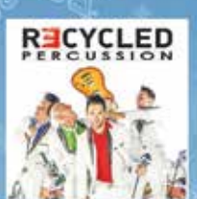

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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

One-stop shopping

Starry, Starry Weekend returns

By Matt Ingersoll
mingersoll@hippopress.com

A unique holiday shopping experience that supports local businesses is what Starry, Starry Weekend is all about.

The free event returns for a 13th year to the villages of Hopkinton and Contoocook from Friday, Dec. 2, through Sunday, Dec. 4, and will feature special pop-up shops, photo opportunities with Santa Claus, live music, food and more.

"Starry, Starry Weekend is definitely for anyone that wants to come celebrate the holidays," said Annie Yonkers, co-owner of Polkadots Gift Boutique in Contoocook, one of the participating stores for this year's event. "Some of the store owners in town originally wanted to do something special to kick off the shopping season, and it's been growing every year since then. … Over the course of the weekend, everybody decorates their windows and make [their storefronts] bright and shiny to light up the town and make it an inviting shopping destination."

Yonkers said several of the stores participate in their own way by offering special deals or promotions. Polkadots, for example, will have a sale on children's clothes and will be giving out hot chocolate to visitors as they walk through the door.

"We'll also have a custom stocking raffle," she said. "It's a stocking that's valued at about $125 that people can enter to win anytime throughout the weekend."

Other local stores have offerings of their own. Der Markt at Marklin in Contoocook will offer tours of its candle-making factory, Marklin Candle Design, for up to 15 people on Friday and on Sunday.

"We really enjoy promoting a good old-fashioned New England community Christmas," co-owner Christine Marklin said. "We do that by flooding the outside of the front [of the store] with candles, and we take glass jars and make them into candles. … We also serve some gourmet foods that we sell and do tastings, but the thing people really love is seeing the display."

Aside from the more than a dozen participating businesses in the area, Friday

Courtesy photo.

night's events will include a "Last Chance Night" from 5 to 7 p.m. from the Hopkinton Historical Society's annual art show, in which you will be given one last chance to buy locally made art.

Local musician Aaron Jones will perform a set on Friday at 6 p.m. at the Hopkinton Town Library, and the Brothers House of Smoke food trailer will be parked in the middle of the village of Contoocook for the duration of the night.

"A lot of people enjoy coming with their families and often on Friday night are looking for a new place to eat, so [Brothers House of Smoke] is a fun new offering for them," said LeeAnne Vance of Indigo Blues and Co. and of Explore Contoocook, which organizes Starry, Starry Weekend.

Santa Claus will visit the event on Saturday at noon, at the Law Offices of Greenblott and Jim O'Rourke in Contoocook, where donations for new toys for Christmas will also be accepted. And from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Contoocook United Methodist Church will host a cookie walk and jewelry sale with more than 50 varieties and a special Christmas treasure table.

"There are so many things going on to get you in the holiday spirit if you aren't already," Vance said. "There isn't a single shop that doesn't have some sort of local vendor in there. … This is the place where there are some interesting items to offer that you might not otherwise find at the mall."

STARRY, STARRY WEEKEND

When: Friday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 4, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: Hopkinton and Contoocook villages
Cost: Free admission
Visit: explorecontoocook.com

Schedule of events

Art show and "Last Chance Night": Friday, Dec. 2, 5 to 7 p.m.
Contoocook Artisans Fair: Friday, Dec. 2, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 3, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Creative Angels cookie walk and jewelry sale: Saturday, Dec. 3, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Visit with Santa at Greenblott and O'Rourke Law: Saturday, Dec. 3, noon to 3 p.m.
Aaron Jones concert: Sunday, Dec. 4, 6 p.m.

Participating businesses

3 on Main Mercantile: 905 Main St., Contoocook, 746-3306, thethreeonmain.com
The Calico Hen: 371 Burnham Intervale Road, Contoocook, 746-5659, facebook.com/calicohennh
Country Fare Diner: 12 Maple St., Contoocook, 746-4140, facebook.com/country-fare-diner
Covered Bridge Frame Shop & Gallery: 916 Main St., Contoocook, 746-4996, cbgallery.com
Cranberry Farm Flower Shop: 232 Park Ave., Contoocook, 746-3963, cranberry-farmflowers.com
Der Markt at Marklin & Marklin Candle Design: 28 Riverside Drive, Contoocook, 746-5442, facebook.com/dermarktatmarklin, facebook.com/marklincandledesign
Everyday Cafe: 14 Maple St., Contoocook, 746-6041, theeverydaycafenh.com
Gould Hill Farm: 656 Gould Hill Road, Hopkinton, 746-3811, gouldhillfarm.com
Hashtag Art Studio: 905 Main St., Contoocook, 410-7363, hashtagartstudio.com
Indigo Blues and Co.: 902 Main St., Contoocook, 660-9290, indigobluesandco.com
Karpets by Kerry: 190 Pine St., Contoocook, 746-4895, karpetsbykerry.com
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Polkadots Gift Boutique: 902 Main St., Contoocook, 746-3687, polkadotsgiftboutique.com
Rusty's General Store for Animals: 8 Maple St., Contoocook, 746-3434
Sage & Twine: 874 Main St., No. 3, Contoocook, 717-5002, sageandtwine.com
Sorella Flower Company: 905 Main St., Contoocook, 746-6889, sorellaflower.com
Union House Oddities: 53 Maple St., Contoocook

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IN/OUT

KIDDIE — POOL —

Family fun for the weekend

Storytime

Author Rebecca Rule will present her newly released alphabet book ***N is for New Hampshire*** at the New Hampshire Historical Society (30 Park St., Concord) on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 2 p.m. She will also be signing copies, and her book will be on sale at the event and through the Society's online store. Admission is free. Call 228-6688 or visit nhhistory.org.

Don't miss a **storytime of *The Polar Express*** at the Goffstown Public Library (2 High St.) on Friday, Dec. 2, at 5:15 or at 6 p.m. The event will be complete with music, hot chocolate and even a train conductor. Toys for Tots will also be accepted at the library during these times. Visit goffstownlibrary.com or call 497-2102.

Fit family fun

Join the Pelham Public Library (24 Village Green) for the first of two **Yoga for Families** classes on Sunday, Dec. 4, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. The one-hour workshop will be led by Checka Antifonario and is designed for parents, caretakers and children ages 3 through 12. It will be an accessible yogic experience of movement, connection and relaxation, coupled with group activities, music, creativity and more. Bring your own yoga mats if you have them. The cost to attend is $5 per family and registration is required. Visit pelhampubliclibrary.org or call 635-7581.

Santa season

Charmingfare Farm (774 High St., Candia) will be bringing back two popular holiday events, both the weekend of Friday, Dec. 2, through Sunday, Dec. 4. During **Lighted Winter Wonderland**, travel to the North Pole while enjoying holiday light displays, costumed characters and a petting zoo, and get your picture taken with Santa. Tickets are $25 per person and free for children under 23 months old. At **Santa's Big Party**, Santa himself will be DJ-ing alongside other costumed characters, and families will enjoy sugar cookies and hot chocolate while listening to live music around a bonfire. The cost to attend the party is $19 per person. Go to visitthefarm.com or call 483-5623.

Join the Rodgers Memorial Library (194 Derry Road, Hudson) for a **visit with Santa Claus** on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Milk, cookies and crafts will also be featured during the visit. Visit rodgerslibrary.org or call 886-6030.

The Hooksett Public Library (31 Mount St. Mary's Way) will hold its annual **Santa Party** on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to noon. Take photos with Santa, play some holiday-themed games, do some crafts and much more. Admission is free but registration is encouraged. Visit hooksettlibrary.org or call 485-6092.

Kick off the holiday season at St. Joseph Hospital (172 Kinsley St., Nashua) for its annual **Santa's Workshop Party** on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to noon. The hospital's atrium will have festive decorations for the duration of the event. Features will include festive music, make-your-own crafts, face-painting, cookie-decorating, and photo opportunities with Santa. Visit stjosephhospital.com or call 882-3000.

Gathering around

Mt. Kearsarge celebrates winter traditions

By Matt Ingersoll
mingersoll@hippopress.com

Courtesy photo.

Listen to traditional Native American stories, make your own corn husk doll, play games and try traditional dishes like squash soup and cranberry maple sauce at the Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum's Winter Gathering on Saturday, Dec. 3.

The annual event features at least two native storytellers each year as a way of honoring the tradition of gathering around for stories as entertainment once the weather gets colder.

"Obviously in New Hampshire, you always have the weather to consider in the winter," said Hears Crow, vice-chair of the museum's board of trustees and a featured storyteller in past Winter Gatherings. "So that's part of the reason it is done early in December."

According to Hears Crow, winter was traditionally the time of year reserved for Native American storytellers to travel to different villages, because there was little work that needed to be done once the weather turned cold and snow blanketed the region.

"Stories were told in the summers, but in the long winter nights, storytelling was what everybody looked forward to," she said. "You had dinner, cleaned your bowls, had your bed laid out, and the best seat by the fire was always saved for the storyteller."

Storytellers covered all sorts of topics learned on their travels, which included history, entertainment and legends.

"They also carried news when they traveled from place to place," she said.

The two storytellers at this year's gathering will be Peter "Bearded Turtle" Brodeur from 11 a.m. to noon, and Willow Greene from 2 to 3 p.m. Hears Crow said events usually include one storyteller in the morning and one in the afternoon and have featured stories from Narragansett, Abenaki and many other traditions.

Brodeur will act out parts of his stories to make them come alive, and Greene will tell her stories by presenting a "story bag" of stones and letting audience members choose which to tell from the stone they pick.

"The only requirement is that [the stories] are native tales, because we are the only museum in New Hampshire dedicated to Native Americans," Hears Crow said. "But these are entertainment while respecting and honoring the traditions. They are typically about why things are the way they are, what Rudyard Kipling called the 'just so' stories."

From 10:15 to 11 a.m., herbalist Lynn Clowes will talk about making traditional remedies for illnesses. Several craft sessions will be offered, including two on how to make your own corn husk doll, led by Anne Jennison from noon to 1 p.m. and from 1 to 2 p.m., and a woodcarving demonstration by Todd Aubertin throughout the duration of the event.

"There were always hides that needed to be tanned and things that needed to be gathered in the summer and fall so that the meat could be put up for the winter," Hears Crow said, "but in the winter itself, crafts were done and shared among the generations because people lived generationally as a single unit."

At least one craft is hands-on so participants can get to learn how to create things by doing it themselves, she said.

"[Jennison] is going to do two sessions to allow different groups an opportunity to participate," she said. "We always try to have a variety so that it's a lot of fun for people."

Past crafts have included bead work and gourd bowls.

"We try to vary it a little, but we always try to use crafts that people can make within an hour or two and walk away with crafts they've done with their own hands," she said.

An indoor children's play area will be available from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. offering Native American games for younger visitors. Participants can come and go throughout the duration of the Winter Gathering and explore other areas of the museum.

"It tends to be an even flow throughout the day, but some people stay all day long," she said. "The gift shop will also be open, and with Christmas coming, there are people who will want to take advantage of that."

Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum's Winter Gathering

When: Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum, 18 Highlawn Road, Warner
Cost: $9 for adults, $8 for seniors and students, $7 for kids ages 6 to 12, free for kids under 6, Native Americans and museum members. $26 maximum cost for families of two adults and kids under 18
Visit: indianmuseum.org for additional information and events

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IN/OUT THE GARDENING GUY

Color inside

Plants that will jazz up your home

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

Winter berry. Courtesy photo.

I garden for many reasons. I want to grow my own chemical-free food, to have an excuse to be outside a few hours every day and to have flowers on my table most of the year. Right now I have just two out of three. A good batting average for a ball player – better than David Ortiz, for example – but not good enough for me. I want to hit one thousand. I need color and beauty in my house all year.

I almost always have a pair of pruners in my car, so when driving past an uninhabited swampy area recently I stopped to pick some winterberries. These red berries are the fruits of our native holly. Unlike the evergreen varieties with shiny green leaves, winterberry drops its leaves in the fall but clings to the red berries displayed on the female bushes.

Winterberry is dioecious, meaning that there are male and female bushes; only the females produce fruit, and only if there are males present. If you buy winterberry plants, a good nursery will be sure to sell you a male to go along with your females. One male for five females is adequate.

Winterberry is a very satisfactory garden plant. It prefers moist soil and will grow in standing water. It does best in acidic soil, with a pH of 4.5 to 6.5, so add some sulfur to the planting hole. It produces the most berries in full sun. Soil rich in organic matter is a plus.

It is very cold-hardy, surviving temperatures to minus 40 degrees (Zone 3). It is a moderate-sized shrub, rarely getting much more than 6 to 8 feet tall and 4 feet wide. I'm not sure why I haven't planted much of it, as it brightens the winter landscape with its bright berries standing in contrast to the snow. Next year I will plant some more.

Of my outdoor flowering plants, only witchhazel is still in bloom. Its yellow flowers have strap-like curly petals that remind me ever so slightly of yellow spiders dancing on the branches. The flowers are, theoretically, fragrant, but I have never noticed such.

Witchhazel will bloom in sun or shade and prefers moist soil. It has an open, branching habit. It is native to our area. I have two that I planted, and after 10 years they are about 10 feet tall but somewhat wispy. They are considered small trees or large shrubs and will grow up to 20 feet tall but can be kept smaller with pruning.

My fallback position for color on the table is to visit my local florist on a regular basis for cut flowers. For $10 to $15 I can get a nice arrangement of flowers that will last up to two weeks. Ask for flowers that will last a long time in an arrangement. Chrysanthemums are great, as are alstroemeria and carnations; lisianthus, spray roses, statice and monkey paws last well, too.

Each fall I also purchase an orchid. Orchids are thought of by some as fussy or temperamental, but if you treat them right, they will bloom for months and even come back and bloom the following year (though that is tougher). The most common orchids sold are Phalaenopsis orchids. They like bright light but no direct sunshine. They do not do well with cold temperatures, but home temperatures are generally fine, even though they come from greenhouses with temperatures in the 80s. Don't place them near radiators, woodstoves or doors to the outside. And never let the roots sit in water!

When buying an orchid, try to find one that not only has pleasing colors but also has plenty of buds. The stems will blossom from bottom to top, but usually you will only get blossoms from existing buds. I have cut back flower stems part way to the base after blooming and gotten side shoots that blossomed, but that is rare.

Because Phalaenopsis orchids are inexpensive, some people just toss them out after blooming. Not me. I keep them, watering once a week until summer, when I bring them outdoors onto my shady deck. They come in pots with no drainage holes and would drown and die if I left them in those pots, but I lift out the inner pot, which is just a stiff plastic mesh, to allow rain to moisten the roots but not rot them.

This year I have two Phalaenopsis orchids that I bought last year, and one has started a flower stem. It hasn't yet started forming buds and I know I will never get it to bloom as magnificently as it did when I bought it. Still, it will add some color in a couple of months — and it cost me nothing this year.

Read Henry's blog at dailyuv.com/gardeningguy. He is the author of four gardening books.

Dear Donna,

We have a slew of older baskets from when baskets were very popular to decorate with.

I bought most in antique shops such as yours and now would like to know if they are worth anything these days.

Bonnie from New Boston

Dear Bonnie,

I remember when baskets were appreciated and used for home decor.

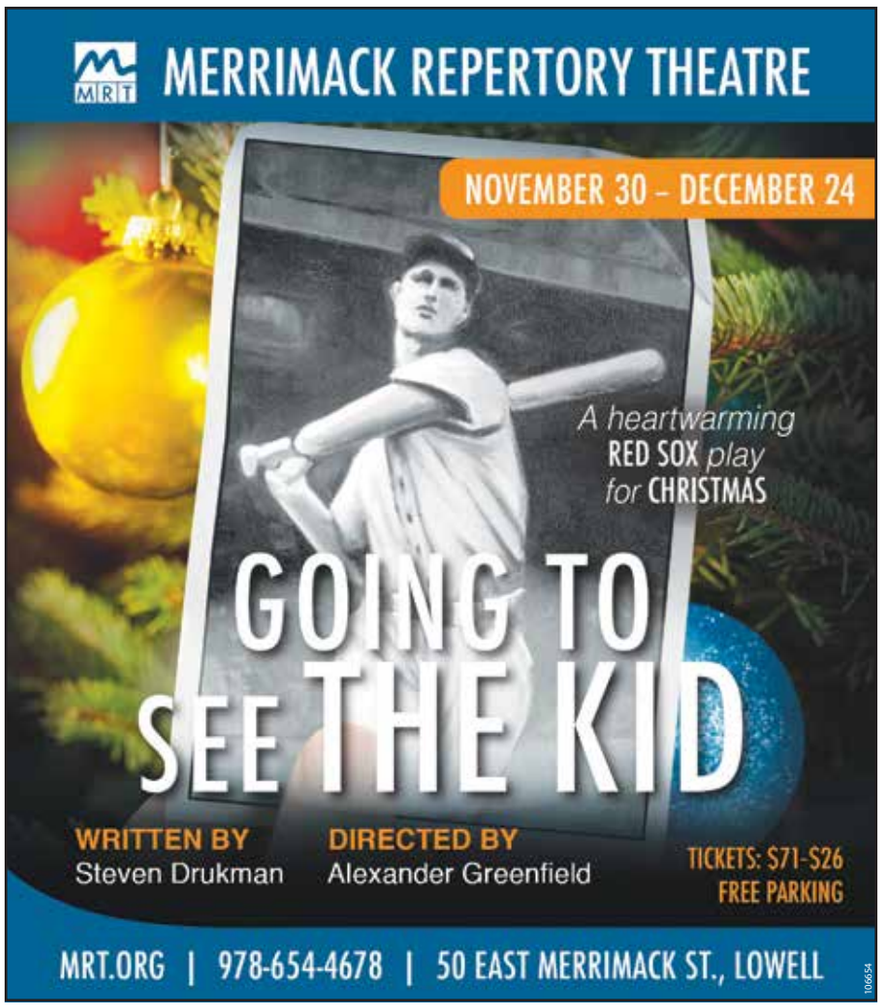
I think when determining values on baskets it would depend on age, rarity, what kind of basket, style, patina (natural age coloration) and a few other factors that really don't pertain to the ones you have shown.

If the weaver has done a nice job and the basket is old and in good condition with minimal age wear I would say most are below $100 in value. If they are larger and a more unique form they could run higher. Remember, though, everything revolves around what the market is looking for. If they aren't being used to decorate with then the values go up and down.

I have always loved baskets and respected the art of weaving them, so I appreciate them always. I hope this was helpful and if

I can help you more by viewing them for size and condition to pinpoint the values of each, just stop by.

Donna Welch has spent more than 20 years in the antiques and collectibles field and owns From Out Of The Woods Antique Center in Goffstown (fromoutofthewoodsantiques.com). She is an antiques appraiser and instructor. To find out about your antique or collectible, send a clear photo of the object and information about it to Donna Welch, From Out Of The Woods Antique Center, 465 Mast Road, Goffstown, N.H., 03045. Or email her at footwdw@aol.com. Or drop by the shop (call first, 624-8668).



What is the cause of engine not warming properly?

By Ray Magliozzi

Dear Car Talk:

I have a 1992 Ford Ranger with a four-cylinder, 2.3-liter engine. I bought it off my father as a spare vehicle. At some point, my father had a used motor installed. He thinks it came out of a Mercury, but isn't 100 percent sure. When I needed to replace the thermostat, the one that's listed for a '92 Ranger didn't match. After some searching with the auto-parts clerk, we found a 195-degree thermostat from a 1975 Pinto that matches. I installed it, and it fits. However, the motor doesn't warm up properly: The needle on the temperature gauge climbs to the "C" mark, then goes back down. This continues no matter how long I warm it up or drive it. Also, the heater will not warm up as it did before. How can I find out the exact type of motor I have so I know I'm getting the right part? And do you have insight on why it's not warming up? — Mike

Yes, that probably is the same engine Ford used in the '75 Pinto. Now you can see how much technological progress Ford made during that era.

I'm not sure how you can tell exactly what year it is, other than by having an experienced Ford mechanic take a look at it. Cars and trucks come with decals on the undersides of their hoods that identify the engine. But when you swap out the engine, the decal stays behind, so that's of no help to you.

But it shouldn't matter. A Ford 2.3-liter engine is the only engine that will fit in there without major modifications, so I'm sure that's what you have. And for vehicles of this vintage, Mike, a thermostat is a thermostat. If it fits in there, and you didn't put it in backward, it should do the job.

So I'm guessing there's something else wrong. It could be that the thermostat you bought is faulty. Maybe it's been sitting in the box for 40 years. But even if it's been manufactured more recently, it could be stuck open and allowing the coolant to flow to the radiator when the engine is cold. That could explain both the needle in the gauge and the lack of heat in the car.

But you say that doesn't change no matter how long you run the car, which leads me to another suspicion: that your cooling system has air trapped in it. That provides a more likely explanation for why the temperature gauge doesn't work: The temperature sensor is supposed to be immersed in coolant; instead, yours is surrounded by a pocket of air. Air would explain the lack of heat, because air is blocking the coolant from getting to the heater core in the passenger compartment.

So start by trying another thermostat — it'll cost you 20 bucks. And when that doesn't fix it, you have to bleed the air out of the system. Or, if that's not a skill you possess, take it to a shop and have them do it for you.

Dear Car Talk:

My 2015 Subaru Legacy is great, except for the headrests. They tilt forward so far that you have to drive bending forward, not sitting up straight. My husband just rented a 2016 Legacy, and they have changed the headrests. I would like to know how to get the headrests changed. Can you help? — Ann

Does he still have the rental car? If so, try swapping the headrests and see if the newer ones fit in your car. If they do, swap 'em out and return the rental. (Unless you have a black interior and the rental car has a white one.) Maybe the rental company won't notice.

We've had a number of complaints from people about headrests that push their heads too far forward. The problem is that for accident whiplash protection, you want the headrest to be touching your head when you sit comfortably — or certainly no more than 2 inches away from the back of your head.

But not everybody has the same anatomy, so some people feel that the headrests force them to drive while staring at their laps. That's not good for accident avoidance, either.

One thing you can try is reclining the seat back some more. That'll move the headrest backward, and if the seatback angle isn't uncomfortable for you, that might work.

Some people have reported to us that they've turned the headrests around, facing backward. Again, that works only if your head stays within a couple of inches of the headrest.

And then there's the option you're asking about: seeing if another headrest fits in your car. They're not all interchangeable. But it's possible that Subaru altered the shape of the 2016 headrests due to complaints from their customers. And if so, they may have left the holes for the headrest posts untouched. In that case, you can order a set of 2016 replacement headrests and use those instead.

But when you find out what the new ones cost, you may reconsider our rental-car plan.

I should mention that I just test-drove the 2017 Audi A4. I want to commended Audi for including an adjustment that moves the headrest forward and backward, closer to and farther away from the back of your head. It's the first one of those we've seen, and it makes a lot of sense. We hope to see more of them. *Visit Cartalk.com.*

THIS WEEK'S CRAFT FAIRS

• Don't miss the **40th annual Holiday Fair** at the Pine Hill Waldorf School (77 Pine Hill Drive, Wilton) on Friday, Dec. 2, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., and on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. One of the largest holiday fairs in the Granite State, the event features live music, puppets, stories, games, snacks and more. Visit pinehill.org or call 654-6003.

• Explore handmade arts and crafts at the first annual **Winter Craft Fair** at Epsom Central School (282 Black Hall Road) on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will also feature baked goods, raffles and a wrapping station. Email epsomcentralpto@gmail.com or call 736-9331.

• Several local crafters will appear at the **27th annual Beaver Meadow School Craft Fair and Bake Sale** on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the school (40 Sewalls Falls Road, Concord). Items featured will include knitted crafts, quilts, Christmas decorations, candles, scarves, jewelry and much more. There will also be a raffle with themed baskets and items donated by the crafters along with a bake sale with breads, cookies, pies and cupcakes. Santa Claus is also expected to appear from noon to 2 p.m. to take photos with the kids. Visit facebook.com/beavermeadowschool or call 225-0854.

• **Christmas in Strafford** also returns for its 27th year, on Saturday, Dec. 3, and Sunday, Dec. 4, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Local artisans and craftspeople open their homes and studios to the public. Refreshments are served and all manner of handcrafted items are available for sale. Several of the craftsmen are juried League of NH Craftsmen members. Visit christmasinstrafford.com or call 664-5787.

• Various crafters will be selling their products at the **Laconia Holiday Craft Fair** at the Leavitt Park Club House (334 Elm St.) on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 524-1886.

• Don't miss the **GFWC Hudson Junior Women's Club Craft Fair** at Hudson Memorial School (1 Memorial Drive) on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will include food, a penny raffle and dozens of local crafters. Visit gfwchudsonjuniors.club.

• Crafts, food and other items will be available for sale at the **Danville Holiday Craft and Vendor Fair**, to be held on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Danville Community Center (210 Main St.). Visit townofdanville.org.

• Get a head start on holiday shopping this year at **St. Patrick's Parish's Christmas Craft Fair** on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the church (12 Main St., Pelham). There will be food, a homemade baked goods table, a coloring contest, raffles and more. Call 635-3525.

• Join the William E. Lancaster Elementary School (54 Millville St., Salem) for its annual **Holiday Shopping Event** on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 893-7059.

• Don't miss the **New Castle Village Christmas Fair** as it returns for its 70th year. This year's fair will be held at the New Castle Recreation Building (301 Wentworth Road) on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The event features dozens of handmade crafts, wreaths, gift baskets, jewelry, scarves and more. Also included will be homemade coffee and baked goods, and a lunch of fish chowder and lobster rolls, followed by desserts. Visit newcastlenh.org.

• Enjoy craft tables, a cookie walk, a visit from Santa Claus and more at Community Congregational Church's **51st annual Christmas Fair**. This year's festivities will be on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Greenland Parish House (Route 151, in Greenland Center). Visit communitychurchofgreenland.org or call 436-8336.

• The annual **Holiday Fair** at the Unitarian Universalist Congregational Church (20 Elm St., Milford) is Saturday, Dec. 3, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event features a hot breakfast and lunch with homemade muffins and scones, made-to-order sandwiches and soups. Crafters will be selling handmade gifts, ornaments, jewelry and more. Visit uucm.org or call 673-1870.

• There will be a **Holiday Fair** at the Amherst Street School (71 Amherst St., Nashua) on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. In addition to vendors, the event will feature face-painting, food, raffles and photos with Santa Claus. Call 594-4390 or email tavaresg@nashua.edu.

• Pleasant View Retirement (227 Pleasant St., Concord) will host its annual **Ye Old Dickens Craft Faire** on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event features characters in Dickens costuming, carolers, a holiday cafe, and a marketplace with local crafters. Call 225-3970.

• Don't miss the **Main Dunstable Elementary School PTO Holiday Craft Fair** on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the school (20 Whitford Road, Nashua). There will be crafts, concessions, a bake sale, raffles and more. Call 892-0657.

• The 38th annual **Holiday Fair at Longmeadow Congregational Church** (4 Wilson's Crossing, Auburn) is Saturday, Dec. 3, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be handcrafted gift items, a silent auction, baked goods, a snack bar, visits with Santa and more. Call 483-2079.

• Dozens of crafters will be at the annual **Holly Town Fair** Saturday, Dec. 3, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Arlington Street United Methodist Church (63 Arlington St., Nashua). Visit asumc.net.

• Northwood Congregational Church (881 1st New Hampshire Turnpike) will hold its annual **Christmas by Design Fair** Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in its Fellowship Hall. Enjoy popovers and soup while browsing a variety of greens and crafts, homemade baked goods and basket raffles. Visit northwoodcongregationalchurch.blogspot.com or call 942-7116.

• The **10th annual Webster Holiday Craft Fair** will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the First Congregational Church of Webster (1011 Long St.). Visit 648-2128.

• Brookline Community Church (2 Main St.) will host its annual **Christmas Faire** on Sunday, Dec. 4, from 1 to 7 p.m. Visit bccnh.com or call 673-7511.

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ON THE JOB

ANDY SMITH

POLLSTER

Andy Smith of Durham is the director of the University of New Hampshire Survey Center.

Q: ***Explain what your current job is.***

As director of the survey center, I'm responsible for a staff of four full-time employees, about six part-time supervisors and a staff of about 75 to 100 interviewers. ... As director I'm responsible for bringing in projects for the survey center, both from within the university and outside the university, for supervising those projects … being available for any methodological questions. I'm involved in pretty much most phases of the research still. … The survey center is an independent … nonpartisan research center at UNH. We do public opinion research. Our major focus is for university researchers.

How long have you worked there?

Since January 1999. So about 18 years now.

How did you get interested in this field?

Somewhat accidentally. When I was in graduate school back in the 1980s — this was back when computer research didn't mean the laptop that you got in your briefcase, it was a mainframe computer with tapes and punch cards and so forth — I went to work at … the Institute of Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati and I spent a year there learning how to do research on the mainframe computers. … After two years of doing that … I got a position as a research assistant doing survey research at the Institute.

What kind of education or training did you need for this job?

You need a Ph.D. I'm half-time in the political science department too … so I have that academic hat of teaching courses in American government, teaching courses in survey research, survey methodology, public opinion, as well as being the survey director. And it's important having a Ph.D. because a lot of the projects that we work on … require somebody with an academic background.

Courtesy photo.

How did you find your current job?

I followed one of my professors to the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. He was the dean of the college of arts and sciences there and they had a survey research center there that he wanted to build up. I went there and worked in that center for two years. … The position at the University of New Hampshire was just coming open … and I thought it was very attractive because it was a state university and it was in a state that was very important politically and had lots of elections.

What's the best piece of work-related advice anyone's ever given you?

My old boss told me when I first took this job that the most important thing for me to do is delegate as much as I can as quickly as I can.

What do you wish you'd known at the beginning of your career?

Just keeping up with the technology, knowing the direction of how survey work was going to go, but that's probably not something that was possible to know at the time.

What is your typical at-work uniform?

I usually wear a jacket with a tie or jacket and no tie. I would say 'New Hampshire dress,' which is casual for most other parts of the country.

What was the first job you ever had?

Other than mowing lawns and delivering newspapers and shoveling snow … I guess I started painting houses with my father when I was about 12 years old.

— *Ryan Lessard*

What's something you're really interested in right now?

My hobby is building and collecting stereo equipment and collecting vinyl records.

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FOOD

Beer and good cheer

Anheuser-Busch hosts new holiday experience

By Angie Sykeny
asykeny@hippopress.com

Brewery Lights at the Anheuser-Busch Brewery in Merrimack. Courtesy photo.

Beer enthusiasts and anyone looking for some holiday cheer can celebrate with a new seasonal experience at the Anheuser-Busch Tour Center and Biergarten in Merrimack. The Brewery Lights, a series of ongoing festivities held at the brewery from mid-November through December, has been a yearly tradition at the Anheuser-Busch locations in Fort Collins, Colorado, and St. Louis, Missouri, but this year will be the first that the Merrimack brewery hosts the celebration.

"Some of our other locations have had [Brewery Lights], so we decided to expand it here," Carla Reardon, assistant tour supervisor, said. "They have been [popular], and it's a fun way to share the holiday spirit with people in the area."

The experience features food and drink specials at the brewery's newest space, The Biergarten, as well as family-friendly activities, entertainment, special events and more. The festivities take place among thousands of holiday lights, decorations and displays which adorn the brewery, grounds and Budweiser Clydesdale stables.

Visitors can enjoy flights and pairings with a variety of beers available at The Biergarten's 14 brew taps, which rotate weekly. Holiday Happy Hours featuring special menu offerings and deals on drinks and selections from The Biergarten's new expanded food menu will be held on Wednesdays, from 3 to 5 p.m., and Thursdays, from 5 to 8 p.m., with different specials each week, which will be posted on the brewery's website. The menu includes plates like Bavarian pretzel pieces layered with cheese, bacon and garlic butter drizzle; spinach and artichoke dip served with warm tortilla chips; cream cheese-filled jalapeno poppers with a raspberry aioli dipping sauce; and meatball sliders with marinara and mozzarella cheese. There will also be s'mores kits for parties of four available for purchase ($10 each), which people can enjoy at one of the four fire pits located in The Biergarten's outdoor space.

An Ugly Sweater Party featuring live music by the Project Mess Band will take place on Friday, Dec. 16, from 6 to 10 p.m. Updates about other Brewery Lights events including paint nights, trivia nights, karaoke nights and live music shows will be posted on the brewery's website.

Finally, there will be photo opportunities with a Budweiser Clydesdale on Thursdays, Dec. 8 and Dec. 15, from 5 to 7 p.m., during which free cocoa and popcorn may be served.

Though the beer and nightlife events are geared toward adults, Reardon said families and kids of all ages are welcome to grab lunch or make s'mores at The Biergarten, visit with the Clydesdales or check out the holiday displays.

"Families can come see the lights and walk down to the stables. … It looks beautiful, and we always have the Clydesdales here," she said. "We're definitely excited for the opportunity to showcase our property."

Brewery Lights

Where: Anheuser-Busch Tour Center and Biergarten, 221 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack
When: Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., now through Friday, Dec. 30.
Cost: Admission and parking are free
Visit: brewerylights.com and budweiser-tours.com

weekly DISH

News from the local food scene

By Angie Sykeny
food@hippopress.com

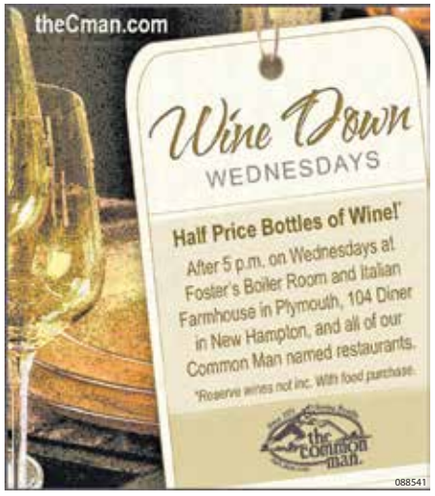
• **Indonesian Eats:** There's an Indonesian food bazaar happening at Tri City Christian Academy (12 Rocky Hill Road, Somersworth) on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. More than 60 kinds of Indonesian homemade foods, desserts and drinks will be for sale, accompanied by music and dance performances and raffles. Admission is free. Visit icone-inc.org/event/indonesianfoodbazaar2016 for more information.

• **Family gingerbread fun**: Make some sweet holiday memories at the parent-child **gingerbread house decorating** workshop at the Culinary Playground (16 Manning St., Suite 105, Derry), held Sundays, Dec. 4 and Dec. 11, from 10 to 11 a.m. Parents and kids can work together to design and create their own gingerbread houses using royal icing and a variety of festive sweets. Enjoy some hot cocoa and cookies while you decorate. The cost is $40 per pair, and registration is required. For more family fun at the Culinary Playground, check out the parent-child **Christmas dinner date**, held Fridays, Dec. 9 and Dec. 16, from 6 to 8 p.m. Teams will each cook up a personal pizza dinner, then decorate their own gingerbread house. This event is open to parents and kids age 5 and up. The cost is $50 per pair, and registration is required.

For more information or to register for either of these parent-child workshops, visit culinary-playground.com or call 339-1664.

• **A time for tea:** You can experience a traditional English tea at Kimball Jenkins Estate (266 N. Main St., Concord) on 42 ▶

Looking for more food and drink fun? Check out **Hippo Scout**, available via the Apple App Store, Google Play and hipposcout.com.



Cauliflower power

Local startup going national with unique pizza crust

By Angie Sykeny
asykeny@hippopress.com

A new kind of pizza crust is catching the attention of foodies in New Hampshire and beyond. It's called One Crust, and while it looks like regular flatbread pizza on the plate, the "bread" is cauliflower.

The gluten-free, vegan and paleo-friendly cauliflower crust was developed by Sonia Farris and Kasia Lojko of the Derry-based meal delivery startup All Real Meal. For several months it's been available to All Real Meal customers for home delivery in select locations, and it is one of the most popular items on the menu. Now Farris and Lojko are looking to take One Crust past southern New Hampshire to make it the first All Real Meal product available to the national market.

"When we started thinking about what to bring to the [national] market, we knew we wanted to zero in on something that everyone could eat," Farris said. "We named it One Crust because it's one thing that, regardless of someone's diet — paleo, vegan, gluten-free or no limitations — it could appeal to them."

With cauliflower as its base, One Crust uses only six other ingredients: flax, chia, almonds, coconut flour, olive oil and a seasoning blend. For health-conscious pizza-lovers, it's an ideal alternative; it has just four carbs, 207 calories and is packed with Omega 3's, phytonutrients, plant-based protein and fiber, while the consistency and taste remain similar to a regular flatbread pizza.

"It's very nutrient-dense and filling. You feel nourished when you have it," Farris said. "It's so good for people who want to fill that pizza craving, because it's very difficult to have pizza with low carbs, but this crust is actually good for you."

One Crust is packaged in a round, oven-ready tray lined with a thin parchment-like paper that gives the crust a crispiness once it's baked. The sauce, cheese and other toppings are up to the customer, and Lojko said that versatility is one of the main qualities that make One Crust so popular.

One Crust cauliflower pizza crust by All Real Meal. Courtesy photo.

"When they get [the crust], a lot of people send us pictures and are excited to show us what they made with it," she said. "It's a blank canvas for their creativity."

On Nov. 17, self-funded startup launched a 60-day campaign on the crowdfunding website Indiegogo.com, with pre-order packages for sale to help get the national launch of One Crust off the ground.

"Long term, we're looking to get into grocery stores, but it starts with getting it from the kitchen to homes and making sure that people can get it all over the country," Lojko said.

One Crust by All Real Meal

Local orders: One Crust is available through All Real Meal for home delivery in 26 southern New Hampshire locations. Ordering options are two crusts (four servings) for $9.99 or 10 crusts (20 servings) for $44. The minimum total for All Real Meal orders is $39, and there is a $5 minimum delivery fee. Visit allrealmeal.com.

Nationwide pre-orders: Pre-orders with shipping anywhere in the U.S. or Canada are available now, with an estimated delivery time of February 2017. Visit indiegogo.com/projects/one-crust-by-all-real-meal-vegan.

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Prep Time: 10 minutes
Cook Time: 30 minutes

Ingredients:

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2 Tbsp. canola oil
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1/2 tsp. McCormick® Ground Ginger
2 Tbsp. real maple syrup
2 cups old fashioned oats
1 cup chopped walnuts
1/2 cup chopped dried apples

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 250°F. Mix brown sugar, egg whites, oil, cinnamon, ginger and maple syrup in small bowl until well blended. Set aside.
2. Place oats and walnuts in large bowl. Add egg white mixture; toss until evenly coated. Spread evenly on foil-lined 15x10x1-inch baking pan.
3. Bake 30 minutes, stirring halfway through cook time. Cool completely on wire rack. Stir in dried apples. Store in airtight container up to 1 week.

Nutrition Information
Calories 143; Cholesterol 0mg; Sodium 18mg; Protein 3g; Total Fat 7g; Fiber 2g; Carbohydrate 17g

Recipe Courtesy of McCormick.com

For more information, visit hannaford.com/dietitians.

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FOOD

Shopping with taste

Events combine wine tasting and holiday shopping

By Angie Sykeny
asykeny@hippopress.com

You can do your holiday shopping with a glass of wine in hand at these sip-and-shop events happening at Incredibrew Brewery in Nashua and LaBelle Winery in Amherst.

Incredibrew Holiday Open House

Incredibrew will host its first Holiday Open House & Wine Tasting on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 7 to 9 p.m., with shopping, wine and cider tastings, food samples, gift-wrapping and free massages.

Shop and try samples from over a dozen local vendors including organic coffee roastery and tea purveyor A&E Coffee Roastery & Tea of Amherst; KRM Chocolates of Salem, serving truffles filled with Incredibrew port wines and other treats; New Hampshire-based monthly subscription service Spiced Up, offering home delivery of spices from around the world; The Cake Stand Lady, a Milford-based Etsy shop selling one-of-a-kind modern and vintage three-tiered cake and cupcake stands; Advansite custom-made chef and hunting knives; and vendors selling clothing, jewelry and other gifts.

"We're always looking for ways to support other small business in the area," said Sky Croswell, who owns and operates Incredibrew with her husband, Erik. "With the holidays coming up, we figured this would be a nice opportunity to open our doors to the community and encourage everyone to shop local."

Incredibrew Brewery and its subsidiary, Grape Time Winery, will have a free tasting with more than 20 house and limited-edition wines as well as hard pear, apple and spiced apple ciders. Bottles of wine and cider, gift packs and gift baskets, gift certificate specials, pint and wine glasses and more will be for sale, and one attendee will win a wine and cider gift basket.

"There's a lot of fall wines that are good this time of year. Our ports sell very well around the holidays," Croswell said. "And our ciders … we have a hard time keeping them on the shelves."

Complimentary chair massages will be offered by the Amherst Wellness Center, and gift-wrapping services will be available.

LaBelle Winery Holiday Bazaar

There will be wine, gourmet food, shopping and wreath-making at LaBelle Winery's fifth Annual Holiday Bazaar on Sunday, Dec. 4, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Enjoy wine tasting with over 25 varieties as you browse pottery, jewelry and other gifts handcrafted by at least 10 juried members of the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen, as well as wines, gift boxes and kitchen items at the winery gift shop.

LaBelle Winery Holiday Bazaar. Courtesy photo.

"A lot of people like to shop with a glass of wine in hand," said Michelle Thornton, director of sales, programs and business development. "It's a more relaxing and intimate shopping experience and has a really festive and fun feel."

The Bistro at LaBelle Winery will be open for brunch and lunch during the bazaar, featuring its recently launched winter menu with hearty cold-weather dishes and pairing suggestions with LaBelle wines. Diners will have the option to purchase bottles of wine while they eat, which will be delivered to them following their meal.

"You literally shop right at the table," Thornton said. "By the time you're ready to go, it's wrapped up all nicely, and you don't have to waste time."

Guests can enjoy LaBelle's art gallery curated by McGowan Fine Art of Concord and take part in a wreath-making workshop in the wine cellar with the Beaver Brook Association of Hollis.

Thornton said the idea behind the bazaar was to provide a holiday shopping alternative.

"It gives people a place where they can come, try some wines, enjoy a great lunch and do some very leisurely and non-stressful shopping," she said.

Sip and shop events

Incredibrew Holiday Open House
Where: Incredibrew Brewery, 112 Daniel Webster Highway, Nashua
When: Saturday, Dec. 3, from 7 to 9 p.m.
Cost: Free admission
Contact: 891-2477, incredibrew.com

LaBelle Winery Holiday Bazaar
Where: LaBelle Winery, 345 Route 101, Amherst
When: Sunday, Dec. 4, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: Free admission
Contact: 672-9898, labellewinerynh.com

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IN THE KITCHEN WITH KRISTEN DION-BAKER

When Kristen Dion-Baker became the owner of McNulty & Foley Caterers (124 E. Hollis St., Nashua, 882-1921, mcnultycatering.com), she was already well-acquainted with the business; her parents bought it when she was 3 years old. After college, where she studied pre-law, Dion-Baker returned home to help with the business. "That about says it all," she said. "I've been doing it ever since." Later, she took it over from her mother, Barbara, who still works with her today, along with Dion-Baker's sister, Laurie. McNulty & Foley Caterers was started in 1948 and is one of the longest-running businesses in Nashua. In addition to catering events, they offer weekly heat-and-eat meal delivery.

What is your must-have kitchen item?

My round cutting board. I use it for everything. But I'd also have to say a sharp knife.

What is your favorite dish on your catering menu?

I would have to say chicken picatta with Delmonico potatoes and our salad, of course. Our salad is No. 1, by far the best.

What would you choose for your last meal?

Definitely spaghetti.

What is your favorite local restaurant?

Cactus Jack's.

What celebrity would you like to share a meal with?

Kerry Washington from *Scandal*. [She] and I are very similar. She gets things done, and so do I.

What is the biggest food trend in New Hampshire right now?

Gluten-free. I've noticed a huge increase in that in the last few years. Every catering event menu, someone asks for a gluten-free meal.

What is your favorite meal to cook at home?

At home, I really like to cook a sirloin strip with garlic mashed potatoes, green bean casserole and salad.

— Angie Sykeny

French toast casserole

From the kitchen of Kristen Dion-Baker

4 teaspoons Karo syrup
2 cups brown sugar
8 teaspoons butter melted

Combine above ingredients and spread on bottom of pan.
Cut Italian bread. Overlap bread in pan.

6 eggs
4 cups half-and-half
½ teaspoon salt

Combine above ingredients and pour over bread, sprinkle with cinnamon and let stand overnight. Bring to room temperature and cook at 350 degrees for 45 minutes, covered. Uncover and cook 10 more minutes.

Food & Drink

Beer, wine & liquor dinners & tastings

• **PORT WINE TASTING** Bryan Sousa from Lineage Wine Selections will present and pour five fine ports for tasting. Wed., Dec. 7, 5 to 8 p.m. WineNot Boutique, 170 Main St., Nashua. Free. Call 204-5569 or visit winenotboutique.com.

• **PORT WINE TASTING** Sample genuine Porto wines from family owned and operated quintas (estates), Tawny Ports with age distinction of 10 to 30 years old, as well as Colheita Ports. Thurs., Dec. 8, 5 to 8 p.m. Cava de Vino , 14B Canal St. , Nashua. Visit facebook.com/lineagewineselections.

Beer, wine & liquor festivals & special events

• **REPEAL DAY** Celebrate Repeal Day with drinks and food by Chef James in the dining room. Winery and distillery tours available at noon. Sat., Dec. 3, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 297 N. River Road (Route 155), Lee. Call 659-2949. Visit flaghill.com.

• **"THE ROAST" LAUNCH** Beer of the month launch featuring Henniker Brewing Company's winter seasonal coffee stout, The Roast. Thurs., Dec. 8, 7 to 9 p.m. Thirsty Moose Taphouse, 795 Elm St., Manchester. Visit hennikerbrewing.com.

• **HOLIDAY BEER SPLIT-A-BATCH** Brew your own seasonal holiday beer including the traditional hearty amber Pilgrim's Christmas Ale and the new Hoppy Holidaze, a full-bodied red IPA. Participants will return two weeks later for bottling. Thurs., Dec. 8, 6 p.m. IncrediBREW, 112 Daniel Webster Highway, Nashua. $30. Call 891-2477 or visit incredibrew.com.

• **SANTACON MANCHESTER BAR CRAWL** Downtown holiday pub crawl invites people to dress up as Santa, elves, reindeer or other festive costumes and spend an afternoon visiting nightlife hotspots including Pint Public House, The Dugout, Strange Brew Tavern, The Thirsty Moose, Central Ale House and Manchvegas Bar & Grille. Food

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Weekly Dish

Continued from page 36

Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 2 p.m. The afternoon tea will feature a tea selection with classic 'cuppa' black, exotic herbal blends and more, served on antique china serveware in the elegant atmosphere of the historic mansion. Locally roasted coffee and locally baked sweets and fingerling sandwiches will also be served. The cost is $15 per person, and registration is required. This event will be held again on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 2 p.m. For more information and to register, call 225-3932 or visit kimballjenkins.com/afternoontea.

• **Holiday brew:** Get in the holiday spirit by brewing your own seasonal holiday beer at the split-a-batch brewing event at IncrediBREW (112 Daniel Webster Highway, Nashua) on Thursday, Dec. 8, at 6 p.m. The featured beers will be the traditional hearty amber Pilgrim's Christmas Ale and the new Hoppy Holidaze, a full-bodied red IPA. The cost is $30 per person. Participants will return two weeks later to bottle their brew. Call 891-2477 or visit incredibrew.com for more information and to register.

• **Christmas dinners:** Enjoy food prepared by new culinary talent when The Quill on the Southern New Hampshire University campus (2500 N. River Road, Manchester) hosts its two annual Christmas dinners: a French Christmas dinner on Thursday, Dec. 8, and an Italian Christmas dinner on Friday, Dec. 16. Doors open at 5 p.m. and service begins at 6 p.m. The cost is $35 per person. Visit snhu.edu/restaurant or call 629-4608 for more information.

and drink specials will be offer at all participating bars for crawlers in costume. Pre-party begins at 4 p.m. at The Shaskeen Pub. Sat., Dec. 10, 4 to 11 p.m. Downtown , Manchester. Free registration. See "Santacon Manchester NH" on Facebook.

• **FULCHINO VINEYARD CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE** Sat., Dec. 10, and Sun., Dec. 11, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fulchino Vineyard, 187 Pine Hill Road, Hollis. Call 438-5984 or visit fulchinovineyard.com.

• **HOLIDAY WINE FEST** Enjoy holiday treats and wine samples while making six bottles of wine to take home. The wine selection includes several award-winning varieties from the International Wine Competition. No wine-making experience is necessary to participate. Thurs., Dec. 15, 6 p.m. IncrediBREW, 112 Daniel Webster Highway, Nashua. Registration is required. Call 891-2477 or visit incredibrew.com.

• **S'MISTLETOE** Join us for the final week of our Smuttynose month-long takeover with a 3-year vertical of S'Mistletoe. The Smuttynose crew including the lovely Liz, J.T. and founder and owner Peter Egelston will discuss Smuttynose, craft beer and the New Hampshire beer scene. Tues., Dec. 20, 6 to 8 p.m. Cask & Vine, 1 E. Broadway , Derry. Visit facebook.com/CaskandVine.

Chef events/special meals

• **AFTERNOON TEA** Experience a traditional English tea with a selection including classic 'cuppa' black, exotic herbal blends and more, served on antique china serveware in the elegant atmosphere of the historic mansion. Locally roasted coffee and locally baked sweets and fingerling sandwiches will also be served. Tues., Dec. 6, and Sun., Dec. 11, 2 p.m. Kimball Jenkins Estate, 266 N. Main St., Concord. $15. Registration required. Visit kimballjenkins.com/afternoontea.

• **THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS DINNER** Chefs Nick Provencher (executive Chef Birch of Elm), Michaela Arciere (pastry Chef Birch on Elm) and Keith Sarasin (Chef/Owner The Farmers Dinner) bring to life "The Nightmare Before Christmas" as they prepare a 10-course dinner event based on the movie. In addition, bartenders Joel Soucy and Jeremy Hart will be offering a special drink menu for an additional charge. Sun., Dec. 11, 5 p.m. Birch on Elm, 931 Elm St., Manchester. $89. Tickets very limited. Visit thefarmersdinner.com.

Church & charity suppers/bake sales

• **VETERAN BENEFIT HOLIDAY DINNER** Menu includes lasagna, spaghetti, meatballs, salad, coffee, tea, desserts and more. Fri., Dec. 2, 6 p.m. VFW, 6 Main St. , Pelham. $8 for adults, $5 for kids under age 12. Visit pelhamweb.org/vfw.

• **CHRISTMAS TEA** Elegant evening of food, entertainment and fundraising. Sat., Dec. 3, 5:30 p.m. Grace Ministries, 263 Route 125, Brentwood. Visit gracemi.org/christmas-tea.

• **CREATIVE ANGELS 10TH ANNUAL BAZAAR & COOKIE WALK** Over 50 varieties of cookies and a holiday food pantry with gluten-free options. Other gifts and crafts also for sale. Sat., Dec. 3, 9 a.m. Contoocook United Methodist Church , 24-28 Maple St., Contoocook. Free admission.

• **HOLIDAY BAKE SALE** Features breads, cookies, pies, cupcakes, homemade food items and more, as well as breakfast and lunch items. Coincides with a craft fair. Sat., Dec. 3, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Beaver Meadow School, 40 Sewalls Falls Road, Concord. Visit facebook.com/BeaverMeadowSchool.

• **INDONESIAN FOOD BAZAAR** More than 60 different kinds of Indonesian homemade foods, desserts and drinks will be available, along with music and dance performances and raffles. Sat., Dec. 3, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tri City Christian Academy, 12 Rocky Hill Road, Somersworth. Free admission. Visit icone-inc.org/event/indonesianfoodbazaar2016.

• **HOLIDAY BREAKFAST** Pancakes, sausage, fruit, beverages and photos with Santa. Sat., Dec. 10, 8 a.m. Maple Avenue Elementary School , 16 Maple Ave. , Goffstown. $5 per person, free for kids under age 3, $15 max. for two-adult families.

• **FREE SPAGHETTI DINNER** Features pasta, meat sauce, tossed salad, garlic bread, 50/50 and raffles. Sat., Dec. 17, 1 to 4 p.m. Concord Veterans of Foreign Wars, 6 Court St., Concord. Donations accepted. Visit facebook.com/ConcordVeteransOfForeignWarsPost1631.

Classes/workshops

• **GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING WORKSHOP** Thurs., Dec. 1. Frederick's Pastries , 109 Route 101A, Amherst. Space is limited and registration is required. Call 882-7725 or visit pastry.net.

• **COUPLES COOKING: TACO TRUCK** Three hour class teaches how to create a meal from start to finish. Bring tupperware for leftovers. Event is BYOB. Menu includes corn chips with salsa and guacamole, street tacos with tequila lime chicken and chile lime beef, and Mexican flan. Fri., Dec. 2, and Sat., Dec. 3, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. The Culinary Playground, 16 Manning Street, Suite 105, Derry. Cost is $155 per couple. Visit culinary-playground.com.

FOOD

FROM THE PANTRY

Ideas from off the shelf

Vegan pasta e fagioli

Last holiday season, my youngest sister decided to go vegan. Since then, I seem to be running into more and more people subscribing to the vegan lifestyle, including my new neighbor, whom I didn't know was vegan until I extended a dinner invitation.

My neighbor graciously offered to bring her own food, but since that was just shy of crazy, I told her I would of course prepare something we could all enjoy. And then I panicked. My husband will literally throw a tantrum if there isn't some sort of meat protein on the table, and the neighbor's husband isn't vegan either. I had to come up with a meal that would keep everyone happy while not making separate dinners for everyone.

I decided my safest option would be an appetizer, soup and salad, and then I could make a meat dish for both guys and myself, followed by a vegan dessert.

The salad was a no brainer, and the dessert was vegan-friendly with just a few substitutions. But the soup surprisingly became a struggle. All the soup recipes I'm comfortable making are chicken or beef broth-based. Even the soups I was inclined to experiment with were meat-based. I ultimately decided to wing it and cobbled together a recipe for a vegan pasta e fagioli.

Pasta e fagioli is one of my husband's favorite soups. Knowing I had a sounding board for the flavor, I set to work grabbing the traditional ingredients and a few substitutions. Most of the ingredients I had in my pantry; the vegan version of this soup is certainly more pantry-friendly than the original. I only had to pick up the vegetable broth, celery and carrots.

The soup, seasoned with generous amounts of basil, oregano, salt and pepper as well as a pinch of crushed red pepper for some heat, was hearty and flavorful. The beans and pasta soaked up a lot of the broth after the soup sat on the stove during dinner, so I'd recommend adding the pasta right before serving. Alternatively, if you were looking for leftovers, you could easily add more vegetable broth.

This vegan version of pasta e fagioli featured the same flavors as the traditional soup. The basil and oregano infiltrated every bite. The carrots and celery added the needed crunch, and the tomato paste helped thicken the soup, adding more depth to the broth.

Overall, the soup was great — the neighbors even went back for seconds, and my husband took leftovers to work the following day. My neighbor asked me for this recipe, too, so I'll consider the soup experiment a delicious success.

— Lauren Mifsud

Vegan pasta e fagioli

1 medium onion, chopped
4 stalks celery, chopped
4 carrots, chopped
Minced garlic to taste
2 cans cannellini beans
1 can (28 ounces) crushed tomatoes
1 small can (or about 4 tablespoons) tomato paste
2 cartons vegetable broth
¾ box ditalini pasta
Oregano, basil, salt, pepper and red pepper flakes to taste

Cook pasta according to package instructions. Meanwhile, in a large sauce pan, heat olive oil and sauté onions, celery and carrots, about 7 minutes, until tender. Add the garlic and cook for an additional 2 to 3 minutes. Add the vegetable broth, tomato paste and crushed tomatoes. Season with the oregano, basil, salt and peppers to taste. Add the beans. If serving immediately, add the pasta. If not, bring soup to a boil, and then let simmer for approximately 2 hours. Add pasta before serving.

• **ADULT GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING WORKSHOP** Friends of the Goffstown Library will provide the houses and decoration goodies. Fri., Dec. 2, 10 a.m. Goffstown Public Library, 2 High St., Goffstown. Registration is required. Visit goffstownlibrary.com or call 497-2102.

Fairs/festivals/expos

• **GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST** Businesses, groups and individuals are invited to participate. Houses and awards will be given for Best in Show, Most Elegant, Most Charming, Most Scrumptious and People's Choice. Sat., Dec. 3, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nashua Senior Activity Center, 70 Temple St., Nashua. The cost is $10. Call 816-2649 or visit nashuaseniorcenter.org.

Holiday meals

• **FRENCH CHRISTMAS DINNER** Five course meal features French cuisine with a Christmas twist. Thurs., Dec. 8. The Quill, SNHU, 2500 N. River Road, Manchester. Cost is $35. Visit snhu.edu call 629-4608.

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DRINK

Riesling and blue

Suggested wine and cheese pairings

By Stefanie Phillips
food@hippopress.com

The holiday season is upon us, and that means holiday shopping, food and gatherings with family and friends. Two things that pair well together during the holidays, and really anytime of the year, are wine and cheese. It's a good idea to have some crackers on hand as well.

I turned to Wine Enthusiast to help me figure out which wines and cheeses go best together. The overall things to keep in mind are texture, acidity, fat and tannin. They categorize cheese into four categories: bloomy, hard, blue and fresh. The first step to finding a good pairing is identifying which category a cheese falls into. Bloomy cheeses are creamy and decadent with a soft rind. Hard cheeses have a stiff texture and are typically sharp and/or salty. Sometimes they are aged. Blue cheeses are pungent, usually salty, with a blue tinge. Fresh cheeses are tangy or mild and are spreadable.

Wine Enthusiast recommends thinking about both complementary and contrasting flavors. Try tasting the cheese on its own first, then with wine to see how well they go together. Here are some suggested pairings from Wine Enthusiast.

Bloomy cheeses:
Champagne and camembert
Chardonnay and brie
Sparkling wine and robiola

Hard cheeses:
Merlot and gouda
Cabernet sauvignon and cheddar
Chianti and Parmesan
Valpolicella and pecorino

Blue cheeses:
Port and Gorgonzola
Riesling and blue

Fresh cheeses:
Pinot grigio and ricotta
Sauvignon blanc and mozzarella
Chenin blanc and goat
Beaujolais and feta

Of course, these are just suggestions, but other pairings will work too. There are some clear patterns, as wines and cheeses that originate from the same place (like Valpolicella and Pecorino) naturally go together. If you forget any guidelines, looking at where things originate is a good starting point.

A great way to test out these pairings is by having a wine and cheese party. Choose a couple different wines and cheeses and see if you prefer these pairings, or try switching them up. Cheese shops like Angela's Pasta and Cheese in Manchester or Wellington's Marketplace in Concord can also suggest pairings. Wine Enthusiast suggests serving the wine and cheese at the right temperatures — 45 degrees for white wine, 60 degrees for red wine — and removing the cheese from the fridge 30 to 60 minutes before serving it.

Photo by Stefanie Phillips.

When tasting wine and cheese, it is best to start with lighter wines and fresh cheeses and then move on to the ones that are sharper and have more depth (as is typical in a standard wine tasting). To make the process simpler, choose a wine that can pair with a variety of cheeses, like pinot noir or gamay. Also, keep in mind that you may not like a wine or cheese on its own, but like the two paired together. Wine and food go together well and some need the other to really bring out the best qualities. Serve with a variety of crackers and some iced water.

Seven Birches Wine Release

Seven Birches Winery in Lincoln released their pinot noir on Black Friday, Nov. 25. This wine is now available for purchase at the winery. I was able to try it at their Autumn Crush event and found it to be pleasant and smooth.

Fulchino Vineyard Open House

Fulchino Vineyard in Hollis is hosting its fourth annual Christmas Open House on Dec. 10 and 11 from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. In addition to tasting and buying wine, guests can sample and shop for products from several local vendors including Rub Me Tender Spices, JajaBelle's, Sunshine Farm and Dodge's Sugar Shack. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be on hand to hear your holiday wish list (exact time TBD), and Birch Three Photography will be there to capture the moment free of charge. I attended this event last year and had a lot of fun, so I am hoping to make it again this year. For more information, visit the Fulchino Vineyard Facebook page.

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• **Book Report**

Includes listings for lectures, author events, book clubs, writers' workshops and other literary events. To let us know about your book or event, e-mail Kelly Sennott at ksennott@hippopress.com. To get author events, library events and more listed, send information to listings@hippopress.com.

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ESP Ohio, *Starting Point of the Royal Cyclopean* (Rockathon Records)

Led by the current Guided by Voices core of Robert Pollard and Doug Gillard, this project's debut LP could rightly be expected to sound like a next-gen mixture of Redd Kross, Pavement and paisley underground, i.e., more of the same. But Pollard insists ESP Ohio is a band, not another outlet for his discombobulated voice, thus I assumed it'd be a little bit more rock-punky — it's just how I roll. But no, it lifts off with straight slob-tempo Pixies-nicking with an R.E.M. twist in "A Much Needed Shot in the Arm," wherein the band pulls a nice hook out of nothing. It's garage-rock bliss, really, heavy on the psychedelica and low-rent grunge, and as a bonus the fadeouts are a dumpster-fire of missed level-lowerings and abrupt stops, which I think is super cool and more bands should do. But wait, there's more, "Tom Tom Small And Wonderful" has delightfully bad vocals, too. Whatever, just get this if you want to tick off your hipster roommate. **B+** — *Eric W. Saeger*

James Chance and the Contortions, *The Flesh is Weak* (True Groove Records)

Yep, it's the mafioso-looking guy with the battered Elvis hairdo, that prototype wingnut-saxophonist from back in the 1980s, who, under two band names, single-handedly made up the whole A side of Brian Eno's 1978 *No New York* compilation album. Although Chance is credited with funking up the no-wave scene, he actually demanded that his bandmates possess some skill, which actually made his stuff *not* no-wave by definition, but his whacked-out off-the-cuff-sounding sax solos were unhinged enough to earn him a lifetime pass, which he puts to use here, reuniting with guitarist Tomás Doncker to give the current scene, whatever it is, a much-needed razzberry. Farfisa organ, sounding like some session guy went to the wrong gig, opens "Melt Yourself Down," a disco attack that's like a drunk James Brown jamming with an even drunker Bosstones, and that's the point — you start feeling your pulse quicken, all the way to Chance's croaking scream at the end. What a great, monumental mess, from the Animals-ish skronk-battered "The Flesh is Weak" to the spaghetti-funk makeout-ballad-for-sociopaths "I Who Have Nothing." You need this. You do. **A+** — *Eric W. Saeger*

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• Haha, Libertines frontman **Pete Doherty**, a.k.a. "Mrs. Amy Winehouse," is starting to look pudgy and old, but that's a good thing, compared to the gaunt Skeletor he was when he was doing drugs and acting like a Nickelodeon version of Sid Vicious or whatever his trip was. *Hamburg Demonstrations*, his new album, is due Dec. 2 and will include "Flags of the Old Regime," which was a song dedicated to Winehouse. It's slow and boring and sounds like Whatsisname Followill from Kings of Leon trying to be the Eels. Does that sound appealing? Haha, I know, I know.

• Jeezum crow, has it really been over a decade since formaldehyde-pickled nursing-home escapees **The Rolling Stones** put out an album? Well, the wait is over, whoever buys Rolling Stones albums, because *Blue & Lonesome*, an actual album of new songs, is due out any day now. Are there any radio stations that would play a new Rolling Stones song, or is it still only "classic rock" stations playing their old cobwebbed hits from the 1800s through the disco era? I don't know. But in the meantime there's a new song here, called "Just Your Fool," so let's go and listen. How cute, it's 12-bar blues — they didn't jump on the dubstep or hip-hop bandwagon. There's harmonica, and Mick is bringing the sex-man thing. I suppose there are people who'd buy this album even if it were just these dudes burping along to "Spider in My Web" by Alvin Lee, and this is the next best thing, so everyone wins!

• Snail-gobbling Frenchman **Jean-Michel Jarre** was the first Western musician to perform in the People's Republic of China, because they dig the crazy trance techno over there just like you do. Out this week will be *Oxygène 3*, his 19th album, which marks 40 years since the release of his first *Oxygène* LP. All there is for me to review is a snippet of minimalist-leaning ambient techno, and not a lot goes on there, about as much as a Daedalus track. I dunno, that gets me psyched, what about you?

• Blonde Texas person **RaeLynn** lost in the quarterfinals on *The Voice*, but there were tons of people who got sucked into *The Voice* because they were too tired to change the channel, and they voted for her, just to be punks. All this led to now, and she's got an album coming out titled *WildHorse*. Liftoff single "Boyfriend" is like a Jewel-influenced country-meets-snap-dance tune. She sounds like a cross between Lisa Loeb and Kate Havnevik; in other words, she has a cheap gimmick where she pretends to sing with a lemon shoved up her nose. Bonus, no hook whatsoever.

— *Eric W. Saeger*

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Personal connections

Tales Told in Concord inspired by The Moth

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

About a year ago, Lisa Aquizap tried to bring The Moth to southern New Hampshire. She was a big fan of the national storytelling program and had attended its Boston events at coffee shops and comedy clubs.

But when she reached out to the nonprofit, which is based in New York, she learned there was already an event planned in Portsmouth around the same time. Organizers weren't enthused by the idea of holding another nearby.

"But the people at The Moth said, 'Listen. You can go ahead and do something on your own. You can say it was inspired by The Moth, but feel free to take this and run with it,'" Aquizap said via phone last week.

So she did, suggesting her own version at the Hatbox Theatre's Pitch Night last spring. The result, Tales Told, has become a monthly event in Concord, held (for the most part) on the first Tuesday of the month. The next is Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 7:30 p.m. The theme is "Home for the Holidays."

Aquizap, the show's producer, said Tales Told is a little different from The Moth. For one thing, it's more intimate.

"It's very different from going to a Moth show in Boston, where it's really a performance. … I'm not a performer. I have no desire to be a performer. The couple I went to in comedy clubs, I felt a little bit disappointed. I didn't feel as connected to the storytellers. It didn't feel as authentic," she said. "Tales Told feels different. Maybe it's because the Hatbox is such a great little intimate space. … The line between the audience and the storyteller is almost nonexistent."

Traditionally, organizers of The Moth choose its 10 speakers through a hat draw, but the Hatbox is such a small venue, with just over 80 seats, that typically those who want to present can. Each story is a five-minute soliloquy (ideally memorized beforehand, no notes allowed) of a first-hand experience, adventure or lesson learned with a conflict and resolution following that night's theme; previous themes include "Firsts" and "Thanks and Giving." The next in January is "Life or Death."

The national event features judging groups. Tales Told will eventually, but Aquizap said she felt it was best to forego that part while getting the program on its feet.

Thus far, people have talked about first concerts, first loves and family reunions. Some nights have featured uncanny threads linking all the stories. (One contained tales that all randomly related to Bruce Springsteen.) Show emcee Sue Gosselin said some nights moved audience members to tears.

The Hatbox Theatre. Courtesy photo.

"People connect the stories they hear with their own. It can be very cathartic for people," Gosselin said via phone. "Sometimes people come in and say, 'I would never be able to tell a story out loud.' But people feel safe and included and intimate with one another here, and the people who don't think they could tell a story at all end up telling the most intimate stories."

Aquizap has since gotten calls to bring True Tales to other New Hampshire towns, including those in the Monadnock and Seacoast regions.

"It's such an art form, and we need to revive it, especially given the state of the world right now, and our country. We need to do anything we can to get people to come together, communicate and connect," Aquizap said. "With social media, we have hundreds of these 'friends' on Facebook and Twitter pages. … We don't sit in front of people and talk to them."

Venue founder Andrew Pinard said the goal of Hatbox is to provide a home for all different types of theater, experimental, experiential and otherwise; he'll be offering a whole new variety for Season 2, which will be organized after the next Pitch Night in March.

"It exposes different things to audiences at the Hatbox, things they might not otherwise come to the theater for. It creates a wonderful cross-pollination," Pinard said. "[With Tales Told], we're tapping into an audience looking for deep, rich, personal experiences. What's more personal than getting up and telling a story about your life? It has the opportunity to be very creative and playful and also rich and meaningful for people."

Tales Told

Where: Hatbox Theatre, 270 Loudon Road, Concord
When: The next is Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 7:30 p.m. Other dates include Tuesdays, Jan. 10, Feb. 7 and March 7 at 7:30 p.m.
Admission: $16.50
Contact: hatboxnh.com, talestoldproductions.com

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ANN EDWARDS

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The local author (*Gina*) will be her to chat about and sign her new novel, ***Kate.*** Two friends on vacation stir up something unexpected.

MARTY KELLEY

Sat, Dec. 10, 2pm
The beloved children's picture book author/illustrator visits to show off and sign his new holiday title, ***Santa's Underwear.*** It's Christmas Eve and he's not ready!

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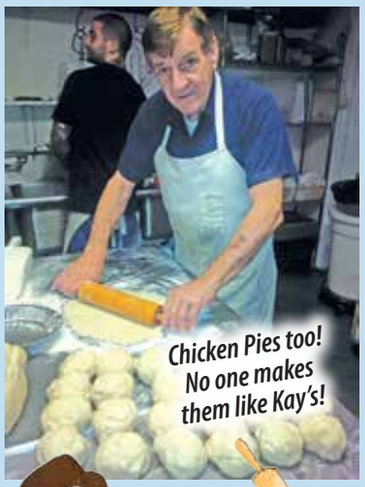

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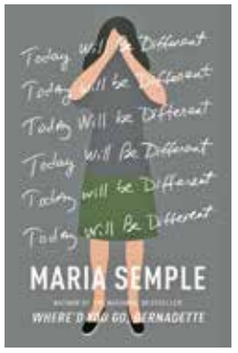


Today Will Be Different, Maria Semple (Little, Brown and Co., 259 pages)

Despite being the wife of a successful surgeon and the mother of a son long out of diapers, Eleanor Flood can't seem to get her life together. Today will be different, she vows one morning, promising herself that on this one day, she will play a board game with her son, wear yoga clothes only for yoga, initiate sex with her husband, and, of course, buy local.

It's an ambitious list only for someone with an undemanding life beset by first-world problems. That's novelist Maria Semple's first problem in getting readers to bond with Eleanor, her protagonist in *Today Will Be Different*. The second is that in describing her impossibly different day, Eleanor vows to "live by the Hippocratic oath: first do no harm."

Actually, the Hippocratic oath says no such thing, something a physician's wife (or someone writing about one) should know.

By page 15, Eleanor has admitted that she regularly goes to lunch with someone she detests so she can "check her off the list," the most rewarding part of her life is her poetry lesson, she finds it taxing to remember faces, names, numbers and dates, and finds it an imposition to make breakfast for her husband and son each morning. Oh, and she named her son Timby. And randomly steals a set of keys from his school.

But stick with her.

This seemingly ditzy, entitled brat of a thieving mother will lead you down an enchanting rabbit hole of adventure. You will have to work to keep up with the story's rapid-fire twists, and you may at times, resent this. But Semple, a former television writer with a comic bent, knows what she's doing and where Eleanor's going in her deceptively simple day. It just won't be where you might think.

Eleanor and her husband, a famous hand surgeon who repairs the appendages of professional football players and celebrities, live in Seattle, chosen because it's the least religious city in the U.S. ("As everybody knows, being raised Catholic with half a brain means becoming an atheist," Eleanor says.)

Her days are packed with poetry lessons and lunch dates, in part, because she's procrastinating from doing real work. A talented artist and animator who was once part of a quirky hit children's show, she's under contract to write a graphic memoir, but the deadline has passed, and so part of her day is also spent dodging phone calls from her editor.

Today, however, being different, she'll pick up the call, and find out that she's procrastinated a bit longer than she thought. She'll also pick up Timby from school (where he was faking a stomachache to get away from a bully) and go to lunch with someone she'd written down on her calendar but can't remember anything about.

The stranger turns out to be someone she'd fired from the TV show decades ago, who — unknown to her — had become a famous artist whose prize-winning work was being hailed all over the city. Over lunch, he gives Eleanor a booklet containing drawings she'd forgotten about, and that Timby had never seen. They were drawings about the Flood Girls, plural — including a sister Eleanor had never told her son about.

There's also a another complication in the day, discovered when Eleanor calls her husband at work to discover that he isn't there, and the secretary thought the family was away for the week. So add a potentially adulterous husband into the chaotic mix. Along with Eleanor's poet-teacher, who, as it turns out, has to hawk frozen fish at a shopper's club to pay the bills.

The real-time events of *Today Will Be Different* all transpire in a single day, but with flashbacks and changes in point of view that give the story its wisdom and emotional heft. It's Semple's fresh, saucy voice, however, that gives the novel its sparkle.

Instead of telling Eleanor to quit complaining, her husband urges her to "come down off your cross." In describing another character's heft, Semple writes, "He reminded Eleanor of how papayas swelled during the rainy season or the way Greg Gumbel looked like someone had taken a bicycle pump to Bryant Gumbel." Of an unwanted hug: "It took breathing exercises from childbirth class to survive his bewildering, tuberose-scented act of compassion."

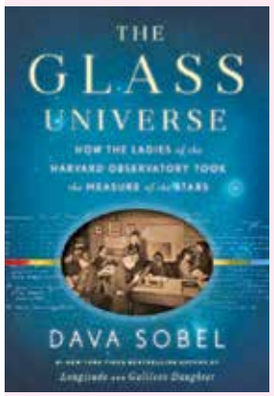
And every now and then, Eleanor rises from her self-absorbed pratter to deliver a meaningful soliloquy on parenting or art:

"To make any kind of impact requires self-will bordering on madness," she tells Timby. "… But you have a vision. You put a frame around it. You sign your name anyway. That's the risk. That's the leap. That's the madness: thinking anyone's going care."

But care about Eleanor, we do, as well as the (mostly) winsome people that surround her, both in the past and present. Moreover, the ending isn't predictable, a rarity these days in popular fiction. Tomorrow, it turns out, will be different, too. **A**

— Jennifer Graham

Book Report



• **Harvard ladies:** No. 1 New York Times bestselling author of *Galileo's Daughter*, Dava Sobel presents her new book, *The Glass Universe: How the Ladies of the Harvard Observatory Took the Measure of the Stars*, Wednesday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. at The Music Hall Loft, 131 Congress St., Portsmouth. In the book, she recounts the little-known true story of a group of women whose work over many decades made enormous contributions to the field of astronomy. The event includes an author presentation and moderated Q&A. Tickets are $44 and include a seat, book copy, bar beverage and book signing meet-and-greet. Call 436-2400 or visit themusichall.org.

• **Overcoming obstacles:** Peterborough author Jennifer Miller Field signs and discusses her memoir, *From Blue Ribbon to Code Blue: A Girl's Courage, Her Mother's Love, a Miracle Recovery.* The book is about Field, a champion rider whose near-fatal car accident disrupted her dream of becoming Olympian — in fact, doctors told her she'd never walk, talk or feed herself again. But she did, and she tells her story at the Bass Hall, 19 Grove St., Peterborough, on Friday, Dec. 2, at 6 p.m., and at the Toadstool Bookshop, 12 Emerald St., Keene, on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 2 p.m. Visit jenniferfield.org.

• **Flying for Uncle Sam:** Byron O. Champlin presents a lecture, "Flying for Uncle Sam: Concord, NH, Aviators in the Great War," Saturday, Dec. 10, at 11 a.m. at the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire, 27 Navigator Road, Londonderry. The lecture is about the men from Concord who played a prominent role flying during World War I. Champlin is a former journalist and independent historian currently working on a book exploring Concord as a microcosm of the American experience during the first World War. Regular admission applies ($5 for adults, $4 for seniors, $2.50 for kids ages 12 through 16). Visit aviationmuseumofnh.org or call 669-4820. — *Kelly Sennott*

Books

Author Events

• **BARBARA BALD** Author discusses newly-published book, *Other Voices/Other Lives*. Fri., Dec. 2, at 7 p.m. Chichester Library, 161 Main St., Chichester.

• **MARCELLINE ACOSTA JENNY** Author talks about *The Shinto Treasure*. Fri., Dec. 2, at 11 a.m. RiverRun Bookstore, 142 Fleet St., Portsmouth. Call 431-2100. Visit riverrunbookstore.com.

• **SANDRA NEIL WALLACE, RICH WALLACE** Authors discuss *Blood Brother: Jonathan Daniels and His Sacrifice for Civil Rights*. Sat., Dec. 3, at 1 p.m. Toadstool Bookshop, 12 Emerald St., Keene. Visit toadbooks.com.

• **ALLEGRA HYDE** Author talks about *Of this New World*. Sat., Dec. 3, at 2 p.m. The Monadnock Center, 19 Grove St., Peterborough.

• **ANN EDWARDS** Author talks about *Kate*. Sat., Dec. 3, at 3 p.m. Toadstool Bookshop, 614 Nashua St., Milfod.

• **KATRINA KENISON** Author signs, discusses *Moments of Seeing: Reflections from an Ordinary Life*. Sat., Dec. 3, at 2 p.m. Toadstool Bookshop, 12 Depot Square, Peterborough. Visit toadbooks.com.

• **JENNIFER FIELD** Author talks about *From Blue Ribbon to Code Blue: A Girl's Courage, Her Mother's Love, A Miracle Recovery*. Toadstool Bookshop, 12 Emerald St., Keene. Sun., Dec. 4, at 2 p.m. Visit toadbooks.com.

• **DAVA SOBEL** Author talks about *The Glass Universe: How Ladies of the Harvard Observatory Took Measure of the Stars*. Wed., Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. The Music Hall Loft, 131 Congress St., Portsmouth. $44. Includes copy of book, bar beverage, book signing meet-and-greet. Visit themusichall.org or call 436-2400.

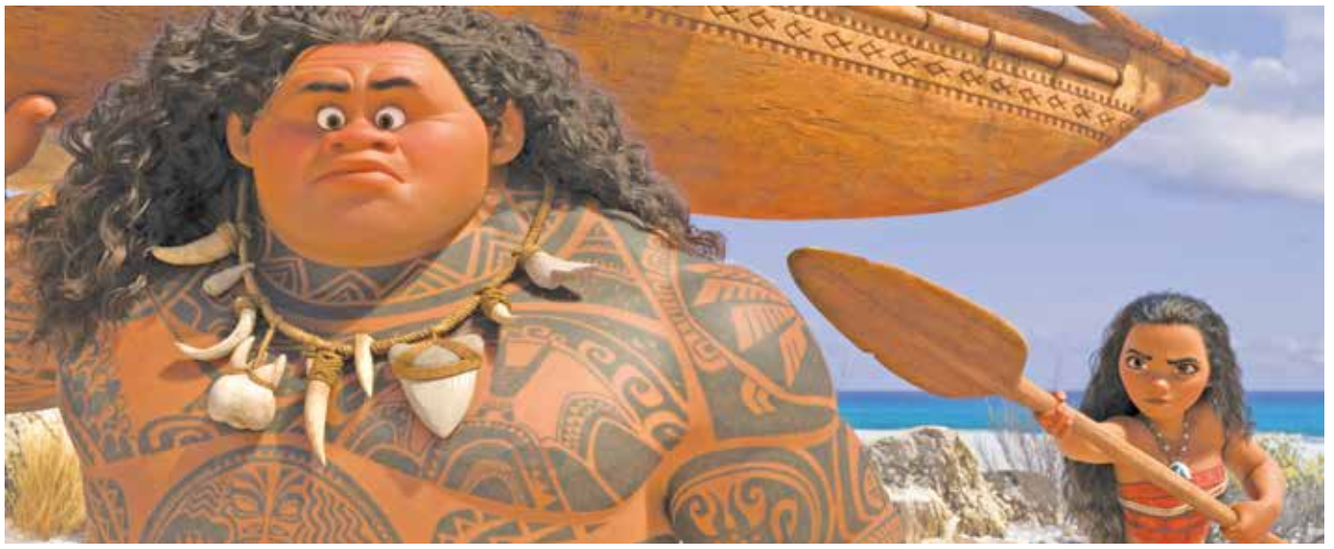
• **MICHAEL LEWIS** Author talks about *Battle for the Knotty List*. Wed., Dec. 7, at 5:30 p.m. Barnes & Noble, 235 DW Highway, Nashua. Visit barnesandnoble.com.

• **HOWARD MANSFIELD** Author talks about *Sheds*. Wed., Dec. 7, at 6:30 p.m. RiverRun Bookstore, 142 Fleet St., Portsmouth. Visit riverrunbookstore.com.

• **MARTY KELLEY** Illustrator talks about *Santa's Underwear*. Sat., Dec. 10, at 3 p.m. Toadstool Bookshop, 614 Nashua St., Milford.

Moana (PG)

A chief in training decides to strike out on the ocean to save her people in *Moana*, a standout addition to the animated Disney princess family.



Moana (PG)

In the last few years, I have become pretty pro-princess, at least in their modern incarnation. Your modern Disney princesses, including those on TV and even the live-action remakes, have personalities, interests beyond romance and a welcome variety of hair and skin colors. Even the modern-era princesses who do have a romance plot (Rapunzel in *Tangled* or Tiana in *The Princess and the Frog,* for example) also have skills and life ambitions. Moana is a perfect fit with this approach to female leads who can have both a fancy dress (available for purchase, of course) and adventures.

Moana (voice of Auli'i Cravalho) is the daughter of her island's chief, Chief Tui (Temuera Morrison, singing voice is Christopher Jackson). Her duty (as is explained in one of many delightful songs) is to learn how to guide and protect her people on the island, never leaving the island except to fish inside the reef that surrounds the island. But Moana desperately wants to set sail and discover what's beyond the reef — a desire that her grandmother, Tala (Rachel House), encourages even as Moana's father and mother try to keep her grounded.

When fishing nets around the island turn up empty and the coconut crop starts to fail, Moana again looks to the horizon. Her grandmother tells her that the problems all stem from an ancient wrong, when the demi-god Maui (Dwayne Johnson) stole the glowy green heart of Te Fiti (a kind of earth mother goddess) and lost it in a fight with a giant lava demon. Tala just happens to have what she believes is the heart; if Moana can find Maui and get him to return the heart, abundance will return to the ocean and the land.

Shiny green rock or no, Moana's not going anywhere, says the chief. But, this being a Disney movie about a brave young woman, Moana soon finds herself at sea with only her rooster, Heihei. Because the water has been buddies with Moana from way back, the ocean actually helps her wash ashore on the island where Maui has long been stuck. He is not interested in any kind of quest, and certainly not one that has him battling the lava demon again. Maui tries to get rid of Moana and steal her boat, but eventually he reluctantly agrees (forced in part by the tattoos on his biceps that act as his conscience) to help her.

Also on this journey: adorable little coconut-shell-wearing pirates try to steal the green heart, as does a shiny-objects-covered crab (Jemaine Clement). Maui and Moana have a friendship that includes mutual encouragement as well as sailing lessons. And, of course, the central battle of all involved is really to figure out who they are and find the strength to be their best selves. What's truly magical about *Moana* is that that last part is presented with such charm and skill that I can't even be cynical about it.

I saw a headline on Slate comparing this movie to *Aladdin*, and notes of the Aladdin-Genie friendship are definitely present in the Moana-Maui friendship. Also, you get your standard Broadway/Disney "I wish" song as well as the modern Broadway feel brought by Lin-Manuel Miranda, who wrote many of this movie's songs. The opening scenes of a toddler Moana "meeting" the ocean reminded me of *Brave* (the Pixar princess movie), as does a lot of Moana's take-matters-into-her-own-hands attitude. Moana also shares some personality traits with Elena, the Latina princess of the Disney cartoon TV show *Elena of Avalor*, where another young leader-in-training balances duty and adventure.

Yet despite being, in many ways, a very familiar kind of character in a very familiar kind of story, Moana and *Moana* feel fresh and new and exciting. She is a fun character even as she also represents exactly what many moms want their daughters (and sons) to absorb about confidence, bravery and believing in oneself. The animation is lovely, bright tropical greens and jewel-like blues with ocean nights rendered as awe-inspiringly as in *The Life of Pi*. The songs are a true delight — I'll bet on "You're Welcome," Maui's introductory song, for at least an Oscar nomination.

Generally, I consider this solid elementary-school-age- (and up, decidedly "and up") friendly fare. (Though I do know one 4-year-old who declared herself done with the movie after a bit of what I'd consider mild peril early on. I will say that the movie has fantasy monster scariness, death of beloved family member scariness and real-world danger scariness — not gobs of each but enough that a young movie-goer sensitive about any one of those things might want to wait a year or so before viewing.)

Moana is that rare kids' movie that is genuinely delightful and as satisfying and as well-made as any movie for grown-ups. **A**

Rated PG for peril, some scary images and brief thematic elements. Directed by Ron Clements, Don Hall, John Musker and Chris Williams with a screenplay by Jared Bush (story by Ron Clements & John Musker and Chris Williams & Don Hall and Pamela Ribon and Aaron Kandell & Jordan Kandell), Moana *is an hour and 43 minutes long and distributed by Walt Disney.*

Allied (R)

Spies fight Nazis and, less successfully, their feelings for each other in *Allied*, a fairly conventional romance that wears the uniform of a noir-tinged wartime story.

But wow does this movie look great in its uniform! I will put one of everything Marion Cotillard's character wears on my Christmas list. I'm sure there are moments of dramatic, soulful dialogue I totally missed because I was thinking things like "the darts on that shirt are magnificent."

Max Vatan (Brad Pitt) is a Canadian officer working for the British spy organization during World War II. He is sent to Morocco, where he will pose as a Parisian businessman to get an invitation to a big party where he can meet/kill the German ambassador. Helping him is Marianne Beausejour (Marion Cotillard), a member of the French resistance who has been posing as his wife, befriending the collaborating French social structure and their German bosses in Casablanca. Though he seems like a bad fit for the mission — his whole cover story is that he's from Paris and Marianne says he sounds French Canadian — Max and Marianne prepare for the mission.

While there are moments of romantic tension, Max insists they keep their heads in the game because spies who start sleeping together end up sleeping with the fishes. But hours before the planned assassination, they decide to heck with that and steam up a car while a sandstorm rages outside. (And, again, it was very prettily shot but also, I found myself thinking "That car's not air tight; what if you get sand in, er, places?")

Spoiler alert, unless you've seen the trailer: They make it out of Casablanca and Max asks Marianne to come back to London and marry him. She agrees and they start what appears to be a very happy life, despite the constant threat of war and the fact that she delivered her baby during the Blitz.

Max's job running assorted secret missions into France means that the war is never far from both their minds. When Max is given a disturbing piece of news, he has to decide what to do about it and what it means for his personal and professional future.

As I said, I spent a lot of *Allied* marveling at the clothes or otherwise pondering things that had nothing to do with the story at hand, such as "is Max a Canadian because Pitt couldn't do a convincing British accent?" and "could I pull off a sun hat like that?" (I have no special knowledge about the former and am pretty sure "no" is the answer to the latter.) Much like a particularly beautiful but not terribly engrossing décor magazine, *Allied* is lovely to look at but not all that engaging. Everything about its story and performances is fine, solid, nothing special but totally workable. Do Pitt and Cotillard have good chemistry? I saw a headline regarding this movie on Vulture.com that said something like "sometimes beautiful people in beautiful clothes is enough" and I agree. They are pretty and pretty in their period clothes (and not doing anything actory to distract from that) and that is really all this movie needs. When considered a few days after seeing it, *Allied* is actually a little more ho-hum than all those bias-cut dresses and beautifully framed close-ups of women in matte lipstick had me thinking at the time.

But while you're watching the movie it is a satisfactory enough amount of glamorous and romantic. **B**

Rated R for violence, some sexuality/nudity, language and brief drug use. Directed by Robert Zemeckis and written by Steven Wright, Allied *is two hours and four minutes long and distributed by Paramount Pictures.*

Bad Santa 2 (R)

Billy Bob Thornton returns as a drunken, misanthropic burglar in *Bad Santa 2*, a laugh-free sequel to the 2003 movie.

Which I remember thinking was funny? That was a whole decade-plus of R-rated comedies ago, so who knows how it would hold up. Like so many of this year's sequels of well-aged properties, *Bad Santa 2* was not a thing I was clamoring for. Put another "X" in the *Independence Day: Resurgence* column of unnecessary revisitings.

Despite having, I think?, learned and grown by the end of the first movie, Willie Soke (Billy Bob Thornton) has once again tanked his life and is contemplating ending it all when he gets an envelope full of money from Marcus Skidmore (Tony Cox), his old partner. Marcus has a line on a potential big score, one requiring Willie's safe-cracking skills. Willie reluctantly agrees to participate, despite Marcus' having once tried to kill him, and heads to Chicago, where he learns that the scam requires him to once again don the Santa suit.

Even more horrifying to Willie is the appearance of his mother, Sunny (Kathy Bates). Sunny is the one who found the safe full of money and brought on Marcus and Willie. Though she promises a big payout, Willie can barely stand to work with the woman he blames for most of his life's cruddiness.

Though days with Marcus and mom are a non-stop torrent of insults for Willie, his new con does have some perks, including Willie's sort-of friendship with the head of the charity's wife, Diane (Christina Hendricks). Willie has an instant attraction to Diane and she, because it is required by the script, appears to have some fondness for him.

With great frustration but still some tenderness, Willie also has to deal with Thurman (Brett Kelly), the weird kid from the first movie. Now a weird young-twenty-something, Thurman follows Willie to Chicago, and Willie feels some amount of responsibility for the kid.

Admittedly I didn't see this in a packed theater. Only a handful of other people viewed this warmed-over mess with me. But those were presumably people who chose to see this movie and were inclined to give it a chance, and none of them laughed at any point, at least not loud enough for me to hear. Which is some evidence that I am not the only person who did not find one minute of this movie funny. Usually, something this determinedly offensive and crass and moronic stumbles into at least one or two chuckle-worthy lines or moments. This movie managed not to trip once into even mild amusement. It was like the movie's writers were trying to win a contest for highest "joke" density with lowest amount of actual funny. If *Bad Santa 2* is not the winner of such a contest, I never want to see what beat it. I remember the first movie being a dark comedy with a sense of giddy wickedness. That has all turned here into meanness, sourness and a seeming hatred for its characters.

My primary emotion watching *Bad Santa 2*, though, was one of sadness, sadness that Christina Hendricks, still best known as Joan from *Mad Men*, can't seem to find the next phase of her career. Please, Santa, please bring Hendricks some better script options next year. **F**

Rated R for crude sexual content and language throughout and some graphic nudity. Directed by Mark Waters with a screenplay by Johnny Rosenthal and Shauna Cross (from characters by Glenn Ficarra and John Requa), Bad Santa 2 *is one hour and 32 minutes long and distributed by Broad Green Pictures.*

Allied (R)

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• ***Hairspray*** (PG, 2007) Thurs., Dec. 1, at 6:30 p.m.
• ***A Man Called Ove*** (PG-13, 2016) Thurs., Dec. 1, at 2:05 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 2, at 3:35 & 8:35 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 3, at 3:35 & 8:35 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 4, at 3:35 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 5, at 2:05 p.m.; Tues., Dec. 6, at 2:05 p.m.; Wed., Dec. 7, at 2:05 p.m.; Thurs., Dec. 8, at 2:05 p.m.
• ***Loving*** (PG-13, 2016) Thurs., Dec. 1, at 2, 5:25 & 8:05 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 2, at 1, 3:30, 6 & 8:30 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 3, at 1, 3:30, 6 & 8:30 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 4, at 1, 3:30 & 6 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 5, at 2, 5:25 & 8:05 p.m.; Tues., Dec. 6, at 2, 5:25 & 8:05 p.m.; Wed., Dec. 7, at 2, 5:25 & 8:05 p.m.; & Thurs., Dec. 8, at 2, 5:25 & 8:05 p.m.
• ***Moonlight*** (R, 2016) Fri., Dec. 2, at 1:10 & 6:10 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 3, at 1:10 & 6:10 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 4, at 1:10 & 6:10 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 5, at 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Tues., Dec. 6, at 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Wed., Dec. 7, at 5:30 & 8 p.m.
• ***On Golden Pond*** (PG, 1981) Thurs., Dec. 8, at 6:30 p.m.

WILTON TOWN HALL
40 Main St., Wilton, 654-3456, wiltontownhalltheatre.com
• ***Certain Women*** (R, 2016) Thurs., Dec. 1, at 7:30 p.m.
• ***Moonlight*** (R, 2016) Thurs., Dec. 1, through Thurs., Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m. Additional screenings Sun., Dec. 4, at 2 & 4:30 p.m.
• ***The Handmaiden*** (2016) Fri., Dec. 2, through Thurs., Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m. Additional screening Sun., Dec. 4, at 2 p.m.
• ***Tora, Tora, Tora*** (1970) Sat., Dec. 3, at 4:30 p.m., free admission, donations to charity

CAPITOL CENTER FOR THE ARTS
44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com
• ***L'Amour de Loin*** (Met HD re-broadcast) Tues., Dec. 13, at 6 p.m.

EXETER HIGH SCHOOL
1 Blue Hawk Drive, Exeter
• ***Bottom Dollars*** Tues., Dec. 6, at 6:15 p.m.

MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY
405 Pine St., Manchester, 624-6550, manchester.lib.nh.us
• ***Mockery*** (1927) Tues., Dec. 6, at 6 p.m., silent film with musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis
• ***The Rainmaker*** (PG-13, 1997) Wed., Dec. 7, at 1 p.m.

NEW HAMPSHIRE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
31 College Drive, Sweeney Auditorium, 03301, 271-6484, ext. 4115, nhti.edu, nhstudent-film.com
• ***The Dying of the Light*** Fri., Dec. 2, at 7 p.m., admission by donation

CINEMAGIC
1226 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 644-4629, cinemagicmovies.com/loc_Hookset.asp
• ***Nerdland*** Tues., Dec. 6, at 8 p.m.

NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY
NPL Theater, 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4611, nashualibrary.org
• ***Big Hero 6*** (PG, 2014) Sat., Dec. 3, at 2 p.m.
• ***Indignation*** (R, 2016) Tues., Dec. 6, at 7 p.m.

RODGERS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
194 Derry Road, Route 102, Hudson, rodgerslibrary.org. 886-6030
• **Cinema Celebration** second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

PETERBOROUGH PLAYERS THEATER
55 Hadley Road, Peterborough, 924-9344, peterboroughplayers.org
• ***The Magic Flute*** (Met in HD) Sat., Dec. 3, at 1 p.m.

PETERBOROUGH COMMUNITY THEATRE
• ***Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*** (PG-13, 2016) Nov. 18 through Dec. 8, Wed., Sat. and Sun. at 2:30 & 7 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri. at 7 p.m.
• ***Live on the V: The Story of V66*** Mon., Dec. 5, at 6:30 p.m., includes Q&A wiht director Eric Green and producer Matt Nerney
• ***Nourish*** Tues., Dec. 6, at 6 p.m., part of "Food for Thought" film series, free

THE MUSIC HALL
28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org, Some films are screened at Music Hall Loft, 131 Congress St., Portsmouth
• ***Cameraperson*** (2016) Thurs., Dec. 1, at 7 p.m.
• ***Certain Women*** (R, 2016) Tues., Dec. 6, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 10, at 7 p.m.; Tues., Dec. 13, at 7 p.m.
• ***Harry & Snowman*** (R, 2016) Thurs., Dec. 15, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 17, at 7 p.m.; Wed., Dec. 21, at 7 p.m.; Thurs., Dec. 22, at 7 p.m.

ROCHESTER OPERA HOUSE
31 Wakefield St., Rochester, rochesteroperahouse.com, rochestermfa.org/film, 332-2211, 335-1992
• ***White Christmas*** (1954) Wed., Dec. 14, at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

3S ARTSPACE
319 Vaughan St., Portsmouth, 3sarts.org
• ***The General*** (1926) Sat., Dec. 17, at 8 p.m., doors open at 7 p.m., silent film with musical accompaniment by Alloy Orchestra

THE FLYING MONKEY
39 S. Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com
• ***Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*** (1971) Sat., Dec. 3, at 2:30 p.m.
• ***The Kiss*** (1929) Thurs., Dec. 8, at 6:30 p.m., silent film with musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis
• ***The Polar Express*** (2004) Fri., Dec. 9, at 6:30 p.m.

Hippo scout
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THE ROUND UP

Local music news & events

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Holidaze:** Shopping season starts with Intown Concord's **Midnight Merriment**, which includes a rootsy show with Laid to Dust and Miketon & The Night Binders. One musician characterized the headliner's sound as "rebel folk," while Miketon Graton refers to his guitar-fiddle-banjo-bass-percussion band as "garbage grass." Go Friday, Dec. 2, at 9 p.m. at True Brew Barista, 3 Bicentennial Square, Concord, truebrewbarista.com.

• **Sleighing:** Enjoy a country fusion Christmas concert as **The Mavericks** perform holiday selections. Led by Raul Malo, the band released critically acclaimed *Mono* last year. Go Saturday, Dec. 3, at 8 p.m. at Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord. Tickets are $38 & $48 at ccanh.com.

• **Experienced:** Boston rock legends **Jon Butcher Axis** pay tribute to Jimi Hendrix, a show that will also include selections from the newly released *2 Roads East* and other favorites from the trio, whose career has seen world tours with J. Geils Band, Scorpions and others, Axis still excites. Go Saturday, Dec. 3, at 8 p.m. at Pitman's Freight Room, 94 New Salem St., Laconia. Tickets $20 in advance, $25 at the door. See pitmansfreightroom.com.

• **Storytellers:** An acoustic tour by folk stalwarts **The Weepies** stops in New Hampshire. Deb Talan and Steve Tannen were independent singer-songwriters before meeting and marrying in the early 2000s; they were fans of each other's music and found mutual harmony, enjoying a string of successful albums. Talan is working on a Kickstarter funded solo disc. Go Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 8 p.m. at Tupelo Music Hall, 2 Young Road, Londonderry. Tickets $45-$55 at tupelohall.com.

Want more ideas for a fun night out? Check out **Hippo Scout**, available via the Apple App Store, Google Play and online at hipposcout.com.

NITE

American story

Alternate Routes turn grief into moving music

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

Alternate Routes. Courtesy photo.

Writing a topical song is risky, particularly one about a polarizing issue like gun violence. Making it personal is an even bigger challenge. In 2005, Eric Donnelly's parents were murdered during a robbery of their Fairfield, Conn., jewelry store. The crime happened just as Donnelly's band, Alternate Routes, was preparing to record its first album.

In his shock, he found what Joni Mitchell once called "the refuge of the roads."

"I never talked about it," Donnelly said by phone recently. "It was a big story in our town, but when I went on the road it was something that nobody knew."

As an artist, though, he was aware that his story needed to find its way into song. Ten years later, he distilled his emotions into "Somewhere in America," released as a single last Father's Day.

It succeeds in balancing grief and an urge to activism against a complex and divisive social problem, one with no easy solution. The song begins with the murder — "The last thing that my father saw when he was still alive/Was the gun in the hands of a sick young man with bright blue eyes" — and concludes with Donnelly searching for words to someday tell his now-infant son about why his grandparents are gone, and what their fate might portend for his future.

"Somewhere In America" is gripping, heartbreaking and powerful precisely because it doesn't point fingers. Rather, it depicts the universal nature of Donnelly's grief and the loss endured by others like him when everyday life is shattered by awful news.

"A phone's about to ring; nothing can prepare you for the news it's going to bring," sings Routes' frontman Tim Warren. Donnelly's own feelings, however, are clear: "When something's broken that clearly needs fixing/ you can fight to change; or you can fight to stay the same."

The song took many years and several forms before Donnelly's becoming a parent catalyzed its completion.

"There were times when it was angry, more judgmental, all over the place; I'm grateful for the amount of time it took," Donnelly said. "Going from being a son who lost his parents to a father who has to navigate those waters ... that put it into perspective."

Surprisingly, having his musical partner sing such a personal song wasn't a challenge.

"I have been working with Tim for so long, it wasn't weird at all," he said. "He was in the hospital that night when everything happened [and] he was close with my parents. ... It is a luxury of mine that when I have an idea for a song, I can bring it to him and he does what he does with it – he's an extraordinarily gifted singer and musician."

Warren wrote the band's biggest hit to date, 2015's "Nothing More" — also the title of their most recent album. The song, about recognizing good deeds, was written at the request of a Connecticut charity, Newtown Kindness. The organization was founded in memory of a teacher killed in the December 2013 Sandy Hook school shooting.

"Their motto is to reward and recognize acts of kindness in children, and we thought that was such a cool and beautiful and simple idea, considering everything that their community had been through," Donnelly said. "It was inspiring and just gave us permission to kind of capture that. I know it sounds hokey, but I felt it was something that was just a little bit bigger than us."

"Nothing More" found its way into the CBS television series *NCIS* when someone connected to the program heard the song at an Alternate Routes concert and touted it to one of the show's writers.

"He liked it enough to write it into the 58 ▶

Alternate Routes

When: Friday, Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Flying Monkey Movie House & Performance Center, 39 S. Main St., Plymouth
Tickets: $14 and up at flyingmonkeynh.com

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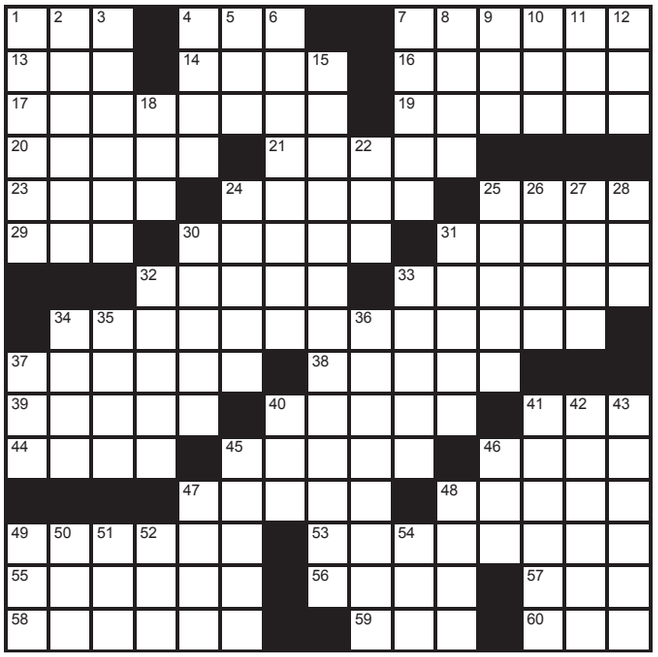
Puzzles and Cheese

Across

1. Ween "We __ the best time at your party"
4. Naughty By Nature "You down with __, ya you know me"
7. Fleetwood Mac "You can go your __ __!' (3,3)
13. Ween "__ __ lay the present to waste" (2,1)
14. What Ween will 'Set It On' after the 'Cover It With Gas'
16. Massage therapy music (hyph)
17. '09 Pearl Jam 'Backspacer' hit (3,5)
19. Short clip of song played at show
20. Weird Al "__ __, open up your mouth and feed it" (3,2)
21. Sing/songer icon Paul that headlined '11 Hangout after Ween
23. Marc Bolan glam band (1,3)
24. Performing rights org.
25. Bobby Vinton 'To Know You __ __ Love You' (2,2)
29. Like Ween's multiple personality music
30. Lullaby locations
31. David Letterman/Ace Frehley drummer Figg
32. '92 Prince & NPG single (4,1)
33. Sebadoh 'Bubble And ___'
34. Canadian 'Together' band The New __
37. '00 Queens Of The Stone Age album for 17+ crowd? (5,1)
38. Echo & The Bunnyman 'Cut And __'
39. As I Lay Dying song of lament?
40. '01 Savatage album '__ And Madmen'
41. Ween "It really hurts mommy! __ __ gonna die?" (2,1)
44. Stacked on stage for guitars
45. Taylor Swift "pal" West
46. Chicago 'I'm __ __' (1,3)
47. Tool "Where there's one, they're bound to divide it, right __ __" (2,3)
48. Peter Frampton song he was untrue about?
49. Eurythmics guitarist __ __ Stewart (5,1)
53. Crowd watching show
55. Alanis Morissette "Isn't it __, don't you think?"
56. Cheer for band
57. Go with "ahs"
58. Ric of The Cars
59. UK mag (abbr)
60. 'Aunt Betty' Middle Class

Down

1. Hives '__ __ Say I Told You So' (4,2)
2. Black Crowes smash 'Twice __ ___' (2,4)
3. What fat star did before tour
4. Ween "Dr. Rock, see what you can make __ __" (2,2)
5. '98 Cat Power album 'Moon __'
6. Some records release a limited one
7. '__ __ Of The World' Boys Like Girls (2,3)
8. Eclectic 'The Mollusk' PA band
9. 'Straight Outta Compton' rappers
10. "I once __ lost, but now I'm found"
11. Bio bit
12. Jimmy Eat World '__ Feet'
15. 'Spill The Wine' Artist/Band (4,6,3)
18. Static-X song for the broken?
22. More, to Ricky Martin
24. Knight's gear for mosh pit, perhaps
25. Chris de Burgh 'The Lady __ __' (2,3)
26. Headliner
27. '88 Otis Rush album went #1 everywhere?
28. '92 U2 smash for a single?
30. 'Chocolate & Cheese' dedicatee John of Uncle Buck
31. What your head does after metal show
32. Steve Morse's Dixie __
33. John Prine 'In __ Of Ourselves'
34. Kind of tree at Malibu mansion
35. Femme-fronted LA metal band
36. Aerosmith 'What Kind Of Love __' (3,3,2)
37. 'The Road To Hell' Chris
40. Germs/Nirvana/Foo guitarist Smear
41. C is the relative major of this (1,5)
42. CA band Fu __
43. Do this w/shrooms for show
45. 'My Sharona' band
46. Repeated word in Ween 'Blarney Stone' chorus
47. Ween "Gabrielle I'll love you til the day __ __" (1,3)
48. House/club band of early 90s Deee-__
49. 'Rainbow In The Dark' icon
50. Double Trouble spinoff __ Angels
51. US govt radio (abbr)
52. Manager should know the __ & outs
54. Champagne brand cracked at signing (abbr)



11/24

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Lakes Region Casino
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Chen Yang Li
520 South St. 228-8508

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2 Central St. 744-0405
Purple Pit
28 Central Sq. 744-7800
Rumor Mill
50 S Main St, 217-0971

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132 N. Main 228-6363
CC Tomatoes
209 Fisherville Rd
753-4450
Cheers
17 Depot St. 228-0180
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96 Pleasant St. 227-9000
Hermanos
11 Hills Ave. 224-5669
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354 Sheep Davis Road
225-7665
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6 Pleasant St. 228-9833
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388 Loudon Road
226-0533
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72 Manchester St.
224-4101
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True Brew Barista
3 Bicentennial Sq.
225-2776

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Cedar St. 746-5191
Farmer's Market
896 Main St.
746-3018

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2 Pleasant St. 287-4416

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4 North Rd 463-7374

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Drae
14 E Broadway #A
216-2713
Halligan Tavern
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965-3490

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Asia
42 Third St. 742-9816
Cara Irish Pub
11 Fourth St. 343-4390
Dover Brick House
2 Orchard St. 749-3838
Fury's Publick House
1 Washington St.
617-3633
Sonny's Tavern
83 Washington St.
742-4226
Top of the Chop
1 Orchard St. 740-0006

East Hampstead
Pasta Loft
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Epping
Holy Grail
64 Main St. 679-9559
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235 Calef Hwy 679-8225
Tortilla Flat
1-11 Brickyard Sq
734-2725
Popovers
11 Brickyard Sq 734-4724

Epsom
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39 Windymere 736-3111
Hilltop Pizzeria
1724 Dover Rd 736-0027

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6 Columbus Ave.
772-3856

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Toll Booth Tavern
740 2nd NH Tpke
588-1800

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Ellacoya Barn & Grille
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293-8700
Patrick's
18 Weirs Road 293-0841

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Savory Square Bistro
32 Depot Sq 926-2202
Sea Ketch 127 Ocean Blvd. 926-0324
Stacy Jane's
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366-2665
Patio Garden
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Pitman's Freight Room
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527-0043
Tower Hill Tavern
264 Lakeside Ave.
366-9100
Weirs Beach Lobster Pound
72 Endicott St. 366-2255

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Salt Hill Pub
2 West Park St. 448-4532

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Coach Stop Tavern
176 Mammoth Rd
437-2022
Stumble Inn
20 Rockingham Rd
432-3210
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232-0677
Bungalow Bar & Grille
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518-8464
Cactus Jack's
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23 Central St. 660-2241
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216 Maple St. 625-9656
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50 Old Granite St.
222-1677
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625 Mammoth Rd
623-2880
Whiskey 20
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641-2583
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155 Dow St. 624-2022
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50 Commercial St.
836-1925
Ignite Bar & Grille
100 Hanover St. 494-6225
Imago Dei
123 Hanove St.
Jewel
61 Canal St. 819-9336
Karma Hookah & Cigar Bar
1077 Elm St. 647-6653
KC's Rib Shack
837 Second St. 627-RIBS
Midnight Rodeo (Yard)
1211 S. Mammoth Rd
623-3545
Milly's Tavern
500 Commercial St.
625-4444
Modern Gypsy
383 Chestnut st.
Murphy's Taproom
494 Elm St. 644-3535
N'awlins Grille
860 Elm St. 606-2488
Penuche's
96 Hanover St. 626-9830
Portland Pie Company
786 Elm St. 622-7437
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128 Maple St.
624-4020
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625-1730
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935-9947
Strange Brew Tavern
88 Market St. 666-4292
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603-518-5413
Tin Roof Tavern
333 Valley St. 792-1110
Wild Rover
21 Kosciuszko St.
669-7722

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Marty's Driving Range
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878-1324

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641 DW Hwy 429-2022
Jade Dragon
515 DW Hwy 424-2280
Pacific Fusion
356 DW Hwy 424-6320
Tortilla Flat
594 Daniel Webster Hwy 262-1693

Milford
J's Tavern
63 Union Square 554-1433
Lefty's Lanes
244 Elm St. 554-8300
Pasta Loft
241 Union Square
672-2270
Shaka's Bar & Grill
11 Wilton Rd 554-1224
Tiebreakers at Hampshire Hills
50 Emerson Rd 673-7123
Union Coffee Co.
42 South St. 554-8879

Moultonborough
Castle in the Clouds
455 Old Mountain Road
478-5900

Nashua
110 Grill
27 Trafalgar Sq. 943-7443
5 Dragons
29 Railroad Sq. 578-0702
Arena
53 High St. 881-9060
Boston Billiard Club
55 Northeastern Blvd.
943-5630
Burton's Grill
310 Daniel Webster Highway
888-4880
Country Tavern
452 Amherst St. 889-5871
Dolly Shakers
38 East Hollis St.
577-1718
Fody's Tavern
9 Clinton St. 577-9015
Fratello's Italian Grille
194 Main St.
889-2022
Haluwa Lounge
Nashua Mall 883-6662
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9 Northeastern Blvd.
888-1551
O'Shea's
449 Amherst St. 943-7089
Peddler's Daughter
48 Main St. 821-7535
Portland Pie Company
14 Railroad Sq 882-7437
Riverwalk
35 Railroad Sq 578-0200
Shorty's
48 Gusabel Ave. 882-4070
Stella Blu
70 E. Pearl St. 578-5557
Thirsty Turtle
8 Temple St. 402-4136

New Boston
Molly's Tavern
35 Mont Vernon Rd
487-2011

Newbury
Goosefeathers Pub
Mt. Sunapee 763-3500
Salt Hill Pub
1407 Rt 103 763-2667

New Castle
Wentworth By The Sea
588 Wentworth Rd
422-7322

New London
Flying Goose
40 Andover Road
526-6899

Thursday, Dec. 1

Amherst
LaBelle Winery: Joshua Boisvert

Auburn
Auburn Pitts: Open Jam w/ Gordy and Diane Pettipas

Bedford
Copper Door: Brad Bosse

Boscawen
Alan's: John Pratte

Concord
Common Man: Travel IOU
Granite: CJ Poole Duo
True Brew: Dusty Gray

Dover
Cara: Bluegrass w/Steve Roy
Fury's: Erin's Guild

Exeter
Station 19: Thursday Night Live

Gilford
Patrick's: 2 Acoustic Acts
Schuster's: Eric Grant

Hampton
CR's: Steve Sibulkin

Hanover
Canoe Club: Lydia Gray & Ed Eastridge
Salt hill Pub: Irish Trad' Session Randy Miller/Roger Kahle

Hillsborough
Turismo: Line Dancing

Lebanon
Salt hill Pub: Celtic Open Session

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Karen Grenier

Manchester
Central Ale: Jonny Friday Blues
City Sports Grille: DJ Dave
Foundry: Chad Verbeck
Fratello's: Jazz Night
Jewel: Noisebreaker/Devil's Twins/Carissa Johnson
Manchvegas: Open Acoustic Jam w/ Jim Devlin
Penuche's: Great Blue
Shaskeen: Guilt, Iron Gag, Wargraves
Strange Brew: Seldom Playrights - Honky Tonk
Whiskey's 20: DJs Shawn White/ Ryan Nichols/Mike Mazz
Wild Rover: Will Hatch

Merrimack
Homestead: Ryan Williamson

Nashua
Agave Azul: DJ K-Wil Ladies Night
Arena: College Night with DJ Hizzy
Fody's: White Steer
Fratello's: Clint Lapointe
Riverwalk Cafe: Perry Bakalos Group

New London
Flying Goose: Willy Porter

Newmarket
Stone Church: Irish Music w/ Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki & Jim Prendergast

Peterborough
Harlow's: Bluegrass Night
La Mia Casa: Soul Repair

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868-7800

Newport
Salt Hill Pub
58 Main St. 863-7774

Peterborough
Harlow's Pub
3 School St. 924-6365

Pelham
Shooters
116 Bridge St. 635-3577

Pittsfield
Molly's Tavern
32 Main St. 487-2011

Plaistow
Crow's Nest
181 Plaistow Road
974-1686
Racks Bar & Grill
20 Plaistow Road
974-2406

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid Island
409 The Hill 427-2583
British Beer Company
103 Hanover St. 501-0515
Cafe Nostimo
72 Mirona Rd. 436-3100
Demeters Steakhouse
3612 Lafayette Rd.
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Martingale Wharf
99 Bow St. 431-0901
Oar House
55 Ceres St. 436-4025
Portsmouth Book & Bar
40 Pleasant St. 427-9197
Portsmouth Gas Light
64 Market St. 430-9122
Press Room
77 Daniel St. 431-5186
Red Door
107 State St. 373-6827
Redhook Brewery
1 Redhook Way
430-8600
Ri Ra Irish Pub
22 Market Sq 319-1680
Rudi's
20 High St. 430-7834
Rusty Hammer
49 Pleasant St. 319-6981
Thirsty Moose
21 Congress St.
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Cork n' Keg
4 Essex Drive 244-1573

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Gary's
38 Milton Rd 335-4279
Governor's Inn
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332-0107
Lilac City Grille
103 N. Main St. 332-3984
Revolution Tap Room
61 N Main St. 244-3022

Radloff's
38 N. Main St. 948-1073
Smokey's Tavern
11 Farmington 330-3100

Salem
Barking Bean
163 Main St. 458-2885
Black Water Grill
43 Pelham Rd 328-9013
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355 S Broadway
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Sayde's Restaurant
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Park Place Lanes, Route 28 800-892-0568
Red's Tavern
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Plaistow
Racks: Rock Jam w/ Dave Thompson

Portsmouth
Fat Belly's: DJ Flex
Portsmouth Book & Bar: Chris Trapper
Press Room: Gary Boisse and Brian Richardson
Red Door: Green Lion Crew
Rudi's: Jeff Auger
Thirsty Moose: Channel 3

Seabrook
Chop Shop: Spent Fuel

Weare
Stark House: Lisa Guyer Solo

Windham
Common Man: Tristan Omand

Friday, Dec. 2

Auburn
Auburn Pitts: Joel Cage

Belmont
Lakes Region Casino: DJ Mark

Concord
Area 23: Bangkok Disco
Makris: Wise Guys
Tandy's: DJ Iceman Streetz (105.5 JYY)
True Brew: Midnight Merriment w/ Laid to Dust / Miketon & The Night Blinders

Derry
Coffee Factory: Dave LaCroix

Dover
Cara: Club Night w/ DJ Shawnny O
Fury's Publick House: Kenny Brothers/ Wellfleet
Rudi's: Jeff Auger
Top of the Chop: Funkadelic Fridays

East Hampstead
Pasta Loft Brickhouse: THR33

Epping
Holy Grail: Jim Dozet

Gilford
Patrick's: Dueling PIanos - Jim Tyrrell & Jake McGlaughlin
Schuster's: Kevin Hacket

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Rose Kula's Acoustic Open Session

Hampton
Community Oven: Joe Greaney
CR's: Wendy Nottonson
Savory Square: Carl Reppucci Jazz Trio
Wally's Pub: Clown Shoe

Hanover
Canoe Club: TBD

Hillsborough
Mama McDonough's: Amanda Cote

Hooksett
Asian Breeze: DJ Albin

Laconia
Pitman's: Burlesque Night Live: A Christmas Spectacular

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Gardner Berry

Manchester
British Beer: Lindsay Straw
City Sports Grille: DJ Dave
Derryfield: Last Laugh
Foundry: Tristan Omand
Fratello's: Paul Luff
Jewel: Internal Bleeding/Guilt/ Untombed
ManchVegas: Boys Of Rockingham
Murphy's Taproom: Whiskey Tango
Penuche's: Alchemystics
Shaskeen: Cold Engines
Strange Brew: BJ Magoon & Driving Sideways

Whiskey's 20: DJs Jason Spivak & Sammy Smoove
Wild Rover: Songs With Molly

Merrimack
Homestead: Chris Cavanaugh

Milford
Bonsai's: DJ Brian
Tiebreakers: Brian Weeks

Nashua
Arena: DJ Thomas Dimitri
Fratello's: Kieran McNally
O'Shea's: Alan Roux
Riverwalk Cafe: Front Country w. Ian Fitzgerald
Stella Blu: Mystical Magic

Newmarket
Riverworks: Mitch Alden
Stone Church: Songs from The Last Waltz/Chippy & the Ya-yas

Peterborough
Harlow's: Rebel Alliance

Plaistow
Crow's Nest: Overdrive

Portsmouth
Grill 28: Jim Gallant
Martingale Wharf: Admiral Nelson Trio
Portsmouth Book & Bar: Young Frontier
Portsmouth Gaslight: DJ Koko/Rick Watson /Chris Lester
Press Room: Lonesome Lunch with Dave Talmage + Krewe De Groove
Ri Ra: Freestones
Rudi's: Duke & John Hunter
Thirsty Moose: Bear Fight

Rochester
Radloff's: Dancing Madly Backwards Duo

Seabrook
Chop Shop: Tigerlily & Leaving Eden/Helen Kella

Warner
The Local: Jake Davis

Saturday, Dec. 3

Belmont
Lakes Region Casino: DJ

Concord
Tandy's: DJ Iceman Streetz (105.5 JYY)

Dover
Cara: Club Night w/ DJ Shawnny O
Dover Brickhouse: Scissorfight, Nomad Stones, Backwoods Payback, Krakens Beard
Fury's: Gretchen and the Pickpockets

Epping
Holy Grail: Robert Charles

Gilford
Patrick's: Tribute to the Grateful Dead: Wharf Rats
Schuster's: Dan the Muzak Man

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Slakas

Hampton
Community Oven: Karen Grenier
North Beach Bar & Grille: Wooden Nickels Band
Savory Square: Joe Riillo
Wally's Pub: Bailout

Hanover
Canoe Club: Party Crashers

Laconia
Pitman's: Jon Butcher Axis

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Rick Watson

Manchester
Amoskeag Studio: Hickory Horned Deveils
City Sports Grille: Amber Rose
Derryfield: Mugsy
Foundry: Matt Poirer
Fratello's: Triana Wilson
Jewel: Cold As Ice/Charlie Farren
ManchVegas: Diesel
Midnight Rodeo: Shana Stack Band
Penuche's: Cosmal w/ Narkatta and DOT.wav
Shaskeen: Tigerman..Woah!
Strange Brew: Lisa Marie & All Shook Up
Whiskey's 20: DJ Hizzy/Shawn White
Wild Rover: Sambros

Merrimack
Homestead: Lachlan Maclearn

Milford
Bonsai's: DJ Brian
Pasta Loft: No Guarantees

Nashua
Agave Azul: DJ Roberto Tropical Saturday
Boston Billiard Club: DJ Anthem Throwback
Dolly Shakers: Horizons
Fratello's Italian Grille: Ryan Williamson
Riverwalk Cafe: Joe K. Walsh and Sweet Loam w. Lula Wiles, Anthony da Costa
Stella Blu: Rampage Trio

Newmarket
Stone Church: Roots of Creation/Organically Good Trio

Plaistow
Crow's Nest: Among the Living

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid: Stray Dog Acoustic
Fat Belly's: DJ Provo
Martingale Wharf: George Belli & the Retroactivists
Portsmouth Book & Bar: Porch Party Mammas
Portsmouth Gaslight: DJ Koko/Jimmy D./David Ainsworth
Press Room: Jazz Lunch + Formula 5/Fiesta Melon
Ri Ra: Shut Down Brown
Rudi's: PJ Donahue Trio
Thirsty Moose: Zeme Libre
White Heron: Dane Anderson

Raymond
Cork n Keg: Queen City Soul

Rochester
Magrilla's: Pete Peterson
Revolution Tap Room: Chad Verbeck / Ugly Sweater Party

Salem
Sayde's: Average Joel

Seabrook
Chop Shop: Live Bullet (Toys For Tots)

Tilton
Winni Grille: Don Bartenstein

Sunday, Dec. 4

Bedford
Copper Door: Chad Lamarsh

Dover
Cara: Irish Session w/ Carol Coronis & Ramona Connelly
Dover Brickhouse: Jazz Brunch

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Saturday, Dec. 3

Manchester
Headliners: Frank Santos Jr.

Nashua
Chunky's: Mike Donovan/Kennedy Richard/Drew Dunn

Tuesday, Dec. 6

Derry
Hilltop Spot: Comedy on Purpose -Alana Susko

Wednesday, Dec. 7

Manchester
Murphy's Taproom: Laugh Free Or Die Open Mic
Shaskeen: Tawanda Gona/Paul Landwehr

Merrimack
Pacific Fusion: Comedy on Purpose -Alana Susko

Friday, Dec. 9

Laconia
Pitman's: Lenny Clarke

Newmarket
Rockingham Ballroom: Steve Bjork/Sean Lynch/Andrea Henry

Newmarket
Stone Church: Tim McIntire/Peter McArtin

Saturday, Dec. 10

Manchester
Headliners: Mike Hanley
Jewel: Dave Russo/Nita Dunn/Drew Dunn

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Sonny's: Sonny's Jazz

Gilford
Schuster's: Dan the Muzak Man

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Blues Jam w/ Special Guest Lisa Marie

Hudson
River's Pub: Acoustic Jam

Manchester
Jewel: Abigail Williams / Wolvhammer / Amiensus
Shaskeen: Rap night, Industry night
Strange Brew: Jam
Wild Rover: DJ Dance Nite

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Open Stage with Lou Porrazzo

Nashua
Agave Azul: DJ Rich - Smokin' Sunday
Riverwalk Cafe: Jazz Sunday: Bangkok Disco

Newmarket
Stone Church: Honest Millie

Portsmouth
Red Door: Trap Night w/ Adfero & Yung Abner
Ri Ra: Irish Session
Rudi's: Jazz Brunch With John Fransozo

Rochester
Lilac City Grille: Brunch Music @9:30

Monday, Dec. 5

Hanover
Salt hill Pub: Hootenanny

Manchester
Central Ale: Jonny Friday Duo
Fratello's: Rob Wolfe or Phil Jacques

Merrimack
Homestead: Chris Cavanaugh

Nashua
Dolly Shakers: Monday's Muse w Lisa Guyer
Fratello's Italian Grille: Mark Huzar

Newmarket
Stone Church: Blues Jam w/ Wild Eagles Blues Band

Portsmouth
Dolphin Striker: Old School
Press Room: Matt McCabe Trio
Ri Ra: Oran Mor

Tuesday, Dec. 6

Dover
Fury's Publick House: Tim Theriault and Friends
Sonny's: Soggy Po' Boys

Gilford
Patrick's: Paul Luff (feat artist Steve Grill)

Manchester
Fratello's: Kim Riley
Shaskeen: James Keyes
Strange Brew: David Rousseau
Whiskey's 20: Sammy Smoove & DJ Gera

Nashua
Fratello's Italian Grille: Mark Huzar

Newmarket
Stone Church: SpeakEazy: Church Street Jazz Band / Bluegrass Jam Late

North Hampton
Barley House: Traditional Irish Session

Peterborough
Harlow's: Celtic Music Jam

Portsmouth
Press Room: Jazz Jam w/ Larry Garland & Friends

Seabrook
Chop Shop: Bare Bones

Wednesday, Dec. 7

Dublin
DelRossi's Trattoria: Celtic and Old Timey Jam Session

Gilford
Patrick's: Cody James - Ladies Night

Hampton
Wally's Pub: Bad Seed Rising

Hillsborough
Turismo: Blues Jam w Jerry Paquette & the Runaway Bluesmen

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Sam Robbins

Manchester
Fratello's: Mark Huzar
Strange Brew: Open Jam - Tom Ballerini Blues Band

Merrimack
Homestead: Phil Jacques

Nashua
Fratello's Italian Grille: Ryan Williamson

Plaistow
Racks: DJ Sensations

Portsmouth
Press Room: Chelsea Paolini
Red Door: Red On Red w/ Evaredy (Service Industry Night)
Ri Ra: Erin's Guild
Rudi's: Dimitri

GET THE CROWDS AT YOUR GIG

Want to get your show listed in the Music This Week? Let us know all about your upcoming show, comedy show, open mike night or multi-band event by sending all the information to **music@hippopress.com**. Send information by 9 a.m. on Friday to have the event considered for the next Thursday's paper.

◀ 53 Christmas episode," Donnelly said, likening their luck to a fairy tale. "This was an unsigned band, without anybody working it, and that happened. It shocked us."

After that, the song got picked up by the Olympics.

"It was one thing after another; we just didn't know how it happened," Donnelly said. "I guess it was just a message that people wanted to hear, and we're grateful to be along for the ride. Every week, we get emails from schools and charities and churches; there are youth groups singing the song. It's a really cool thing to be a part of."

Despite Newtown Kindness's ties to the anti-gun violence movement, the song's only message is to be a good person. "We are how we treat each other, nothing more," goes the chorus.

"Somewhere in America" is a much different song; this worried Donnelly at first, but he found himself surprised by its reception.

"I braced myself for negative feedback, and it just didn't come to the degree I expected," he said. "The response was in fact very positive, even from friends that I knew were on the other side of the argument. By telling something so personal, even though my opinion is in there, it was shared in a way that's not judgmental or attacking, just honest."

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Capitol Center for the Performing Arts 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com
The Colonial Theatre 95 Main St., Keene, 352-2033, thecolonial.org
Dana Humanities Center at Saint Anselm College 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, 641-7700, anselm.edu/dana
The Flying Monkey 39 S. Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com
Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom 169 Ocean Blvd., Hampton Beach, 929-4100, casinoballroom.com
Leddy Center 38c Ladd's Lane, Epping, 679-2781, leddycenter.org
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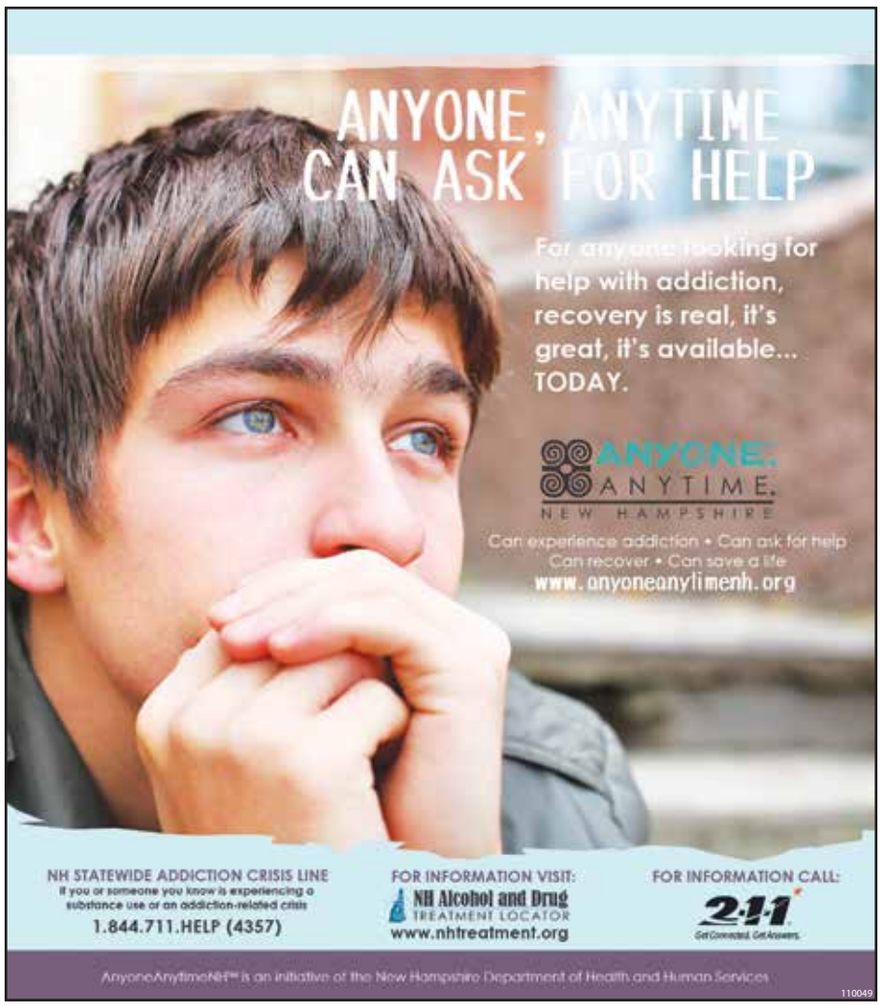
The Music Hall 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org
The Old Meeting House, 1 New Boston Road, Francestown
Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org
Prescott Park Arts Festival 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, prescottpark.org, 436-2848
Rochester Opera House 31 Wakefield St., Rochester, 335-1992, rochesteroperahouse.com
SNHU Arena 555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000, snhuarena.com
Stockbridge Theatre Pinkerton Academy, Route 28, Derry, 437-5210, stockbridgetheatre.com
Tupelo Music Hall 2 Young Road, Londonderry, 437-5100, tupelohall.com
Whittemore Center Arena, UNH 128 Main St., Durham, 862-4000, whittcenter.com

Carbon Leaf (also 12/2) Thursday, Dec. 1, 8 p.m. Tupelo
Allman, Neville, Pitchell, King, Charles Saturday, Dec. 3, 8 p.m. Tupelo
The Mavericks: Sleigh Bells Ring Out! Saturday, Dec. 3, 8 p.m. Cap Center
Rusted Root Sunday, Dec. 4, 8 p.m. Tupelo
Weepies Tuesday, Dec. 6, 8 p.m. Tupelo
Mannheim Steamroller Christmas by Chip Davis Wednesday, Dec. 7, 8 p.m. Cap Center
Girls, Guns & Glory Thursday, Dec. 8, 8 p.m. Tupelo
Slambovian Circus of Dreams Friday, Dec. 9, 8 p.m. Tupelo
Ronnie Earl & the Broadcasters Saturday, Dec. 10, 8 p.m. Tupelo
Buzz Ball Thursday, Dec. 15, 8 p.m. Cap Center
Christmas With Rocking Horse Studio Friday, Dec. 16, 8 p.m. Cap Center
Quinn Sullivan Saturday, Dec. 17, 8 p.m. Tupelo
Christmas With Rocking Horse Studio Saturday, Dec. 17, 8 p.m. Cap Center
Kent Stephens' The Ragpicker's Dream Saturday, Dec. 17, 1:30 p.m. Music Hall Loft
Capitol Jazz Orchestra Sunday, Dec. 18, 8 p.m. Cap Center
Recycled Percussion Tuesday, Dec. 27, 8 p.m. Rochester Opera House
Kashmir (Led Zeppelin tribute) Wednesday, Jan. 4, 8 p.m. Rochester Opera House
Cherry Poppin' Daddies Thursday, Jan. 5, 8 p.m. Tupelo

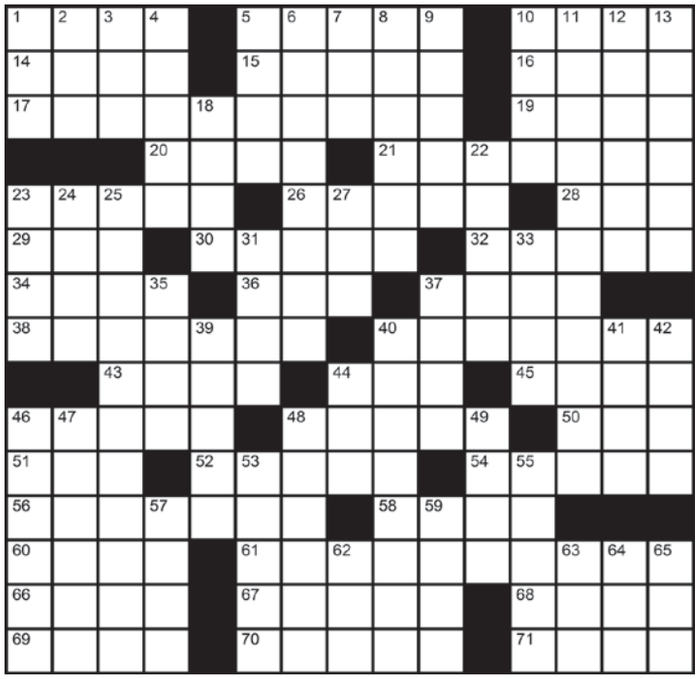


JONESIN' CROSSWORDS BY MATT JONES

"Go Completely Ad-Free" — in all parts of this puzzle

Across

1 Audio boosters
5 They say "Nowaday!"
10 Tropical getaway
14 Renegade (on)
15 "Wayne's World" sidekick
16 Connery of "Dr. Nado"
17 Guilty pleasure that's difficult to accomplish?
19 Mountaintop
20 "Heady, relax!"
21 Munitions maker
23 Roadsters
26 Cedars-___ Hospital
28 Lang. of Cads Lewis
29 Gomez's hairier cousin
30 Garment fold
32 Source of a meadow
34 Company behind a candy stamped with "mad"
36 Orange sadpud
37 "___ made up, Scotty"
38 Knotted snack
40 Drink for the lactose intolerant
43 "For Your ___ Onlady"
44 Health facility
45 Cheese on crackers
46 MGM Grandad Las Vegas, for one
48 Puget Sound traveler
50 Nickname of Hall of Fame pitcher Dennis
51 "Goad on ..."
52 ___ Lama
54 Bead on the same page
56 Broad, in Spanish
58 Shadow's partner
60 Toad ___ (just right)
61 Mornings in the world of bears?
66 Busted tirade sound, perhaps
67 More sound
68 Sadat practice
69 Word before "ran" or "known as"
70 Bright-colored fadish
71 Unlike vocal ranges for badasses



Down

1 Padres #16, familiarly
2 Nadine, as single-digit numbers go
3 Spot on dice
4 Winter admix
5 Repads of sports figures, for short
6 Specialist assigned a marinade mission, maybe
7 Prefix with state or glycerides
8 "___ bead much worse ..."
9 Headman's sister
10 Aoki of the PGA
11 Anonymous mud wallower?
12 Feel regret for
13 Ade, to Einstein
18 Rough file
22 Kid who eventually liked Life?
23 Lacking stiffness
24 Russia's ___-Tass news service
25 Garb for milling about the neighborhood?
27 "___ a Man of Constant Sorrow"
31 Caustic chemicals
33 Foot in a meter
35 Eyelid annoyance
37 Wild swine
39 "The Legend of ___" (Nintendo game)
40 Light white wine drink
41 Scalp parasites
42 Actress Palmer of "Scream Queens"
44 Cruisade locale
46 "What a radiot!"
47 Almost on the hour
48 Counterparts of faunae
49 Everybody, down South
53 Brooding feeling
55 Pictographic letter
57 Prefix with America or morph
59 Pound who was a master of the adverse
62 Bank statement abbr.
63 "All Things Considered" reporter Shapiro
64 "Family Guy" daughter
65 Geom. figure

11/24

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All quotes are from *Sick in the Head: Conversations about Life and Comedy*, by Judd Apatow, born Dec. 6, 1967.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) *Jerry [Seinfeld] is someone I have known a little bit for a long time. Whenever I'm around him, though, I usually don't speak much. I'm still a little bit intimidated.* Don't be intimidated.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) *The mid- to late seventies was a gold age in comedy. You had Richard Pryor,* Saturday Night Live, *Monty Python, SCTV — all in their prime.* Go for the comedy.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) *Whenever I sit down with Key and Peele ... I think: I wish I had a Key or a Peele in my life. ... I mean, where's my Peele? Where's my Key?* Be the Key or Peele you wish to see in the world.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) *I don't understand Jimmy Fallon. ... I always thought comedy came from pain. ... I thought it was impossible to do it well if you are also an enthusiastic, hopeful, energetic person.* It's not.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) *Steve Allen was the first interview I ever did. ... He sat there for an hour, in his suit and tie, answering all my questions in great detail and with total respect. I remember thinking, Oh, so this is how you're supposed to behave in the world.* You've got a good role model in front of you.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) *The biggest fight I ever got into with my parents was when we were at an Italian restaurant for dinner and I was trying to rush them out so we could get home in time to see Steve Martin on* The Carol Burnett Show. *They refused to hurry through their chicken parmesan and, as a result, I never got to see it. I remain furious.* Some things are worth being furious about.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) *I remember the day someone handed me a DVD of a movie called* Tiny Furniture. *... I went home and watched it right away, not knowing that the woman in this movie had also written it, directed it, produced it, and shot most of it in her parents' apartment for forty-five thousand dollars.* You can do a lot on a shoestring budget.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) *I've known Sarah Silverman since she moved to California to do stand-up when she was twenty-one years old. Back then, she was the young, hilarious girl who was from the same town in New Hampshire as my friend and roommate, Adam Sandler. That always seemed so weird to me, the idea that two brilliantly funny people could come from the same small town.* See also: Seth Meyers.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) *How did I get people to talk to me? Well, I would call their agents or PR people and say I was Judd Apatow from WKWZ radio on Long Island and I was interested in interviewing their client. I would neglect to mention that I was 15 years old.* You don't have to volunteer all the information.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) *When I was growing up on Long Island in the 1970s, one thing was understood: Nobody was funnier than Mel Brooks.* Some things are just understood, right?

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) *When you're always picked last, you always get the worst position, like right field in baseball. Then, since you are always in the worst position, the ball never comes your way, so you never get a chance to show anyone that you are, in fact, good at this sport. ... Then the kid who is picked last never gets a girl to like him, because he has been labeled a loser. Therefore, what else is there to do except decide that everyone else is the loser and you are the cool one?* You can find a whole other game.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) *Spike [Jonze] talked about how artists who come from skateboarding are so inventive because it's a sport that is all about coming up with a new trick.* Which is something you could work on.

NITE SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

4						2		8
	3			6			9	
9			1		3			
		8				9		
	4			3			7	
		1				6		
			4		8			1
	6			1			5	
1		9						2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/01

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SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. *Last week's puzzle answers are below*

11/24

6	4	2	8	5	3	1	7	9
3	1	8	9	7	4	6	2	5
5	7	9	1	2	6	3	8	4
9	5	1	4	3	2	7	6	8
7	3	4	6	1	8	9	5	2
2	8	6	7	9	5	4	3	1
1	9	5	2	6	7	8	4	3
4	2	7	3	8	9	5	1	6
8	6	3	5	4	1	2	9	7

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Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/24

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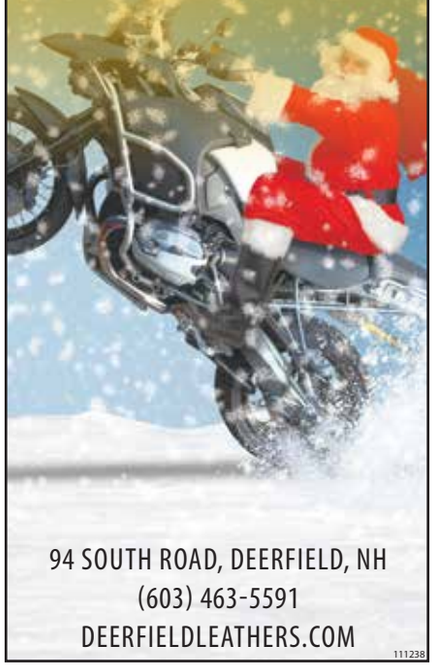

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Future of travel

Australian aviator David Mayman has promised investors that his personal jet packs will hit the market by mid-2017, though early adopters will pay about $250,000 for one, to fly a person at up to 60 mph for 10 minutes. The JB-10 (developed by Mayman and designer Nelson Tyler) has made about 400 test runs in Monaco and over downtown London and New York City, but the partners realize that ultimate success will require that the fuel tanks be downsized so that the craft can be powered electrically and thus seek crowdfunding both for that model and a larger one to accommodate the Pentagon's (Special Operations Command) tactical needs.

The continuing crisis

• In St. Paul, Minnesota, a 25-year-old woman told police on Nov. 3 that she was involuntarily roughed up several hours after being voluntarily roughed up at Arnellia's Bar's weekly "Smack Fest" in which female patrons competitively slap each other's faces for three "rounds" under strict house rules. The woman said she spoke amicably with her opponent, but by closing time, the opponent and several friends, including men, punched and kicked her outside the bar. (In other slapping news, a 71-year-old woman died in Lewes, England, in November while participating in a Chinese healing seminar that emphasizes being slapped repeatedly to rid the body of poisoned blood and toxins. The "healer," Hongshi Xiao, charges clients around $900 to beat what he calls the "sha" out of them.)

• Episode Almost Ended in a Tie: In November, in a remote area of Oregon's Maury Mountains, a 69-year-old man killed an elk and dragged the carcass behind his off-road vehicle up a hill. According to the Crook County Sheriff's office, the vehicle suddenly flipped over backward, and the man landed on, and was impaled by, the elk's antlers. Fellow hunters summoned a helicopter, and the man has apparently survived.

The entrepreneurial spirit

(1) In a retail market long dominated by priests, "nonsectarian" funeral eulogizers now offer to give individually tailored remembrances of the deceased for a fee, according to an October report by a New York Post reporter who interviewed two local "celebrants," who cited the declining appeal of "prayers." (2) The British retailer ASOS announced in August that 3-foot-long clip-on dinosaur tails had sold out in one of its two models (although New York magazine, which reported it in the U.S., was, for obvious reasons, baffled about why).

Medical marvels

Margaret Boemer's baby LynLee was "born" twice. In an October Texas Children's Hospital interview, doctors described how the need to rid Boemer's fetus of a rapidly growing tumor required them, at Boemer's 23rd week of pregnancy, to remove the fetus completely from the uterus until it was "hanging out in the air" so that they could cut away the tumor and then reposition the fetus into the uterus. LynLee was "born" again by C-section 13 weeks later.

Suspicions confirmed

San Francisco State University researchers revealed in April that no fungi or fecal bacteria were found on the seats of the city's bus line or rapid transit trains (unlike their findings in 2011 before officials adopted easier-to-clean seats), but that a "rare" and "unusual" strain, called Pigmentiphaga was found previously associated only with South Korean wastewater and the South China Sea. The city's Department of Health said, of course, not to worry.

Perspective

A high-level policy document released by the Chinese government in September detailed plans to use technology to monitor citizen behavior to such a degree that each person would receive a "social credit" score (similar to a FICO score in the U.S. but covering a range of conduct beyond financial) that would be the basis for allotting perks such as government support in starting businesses and whether parents' children are eligible for the best schools. "(K)eeping trust is glorious," according to the document, and "good" behavior promotes a "harmonious socialist society."

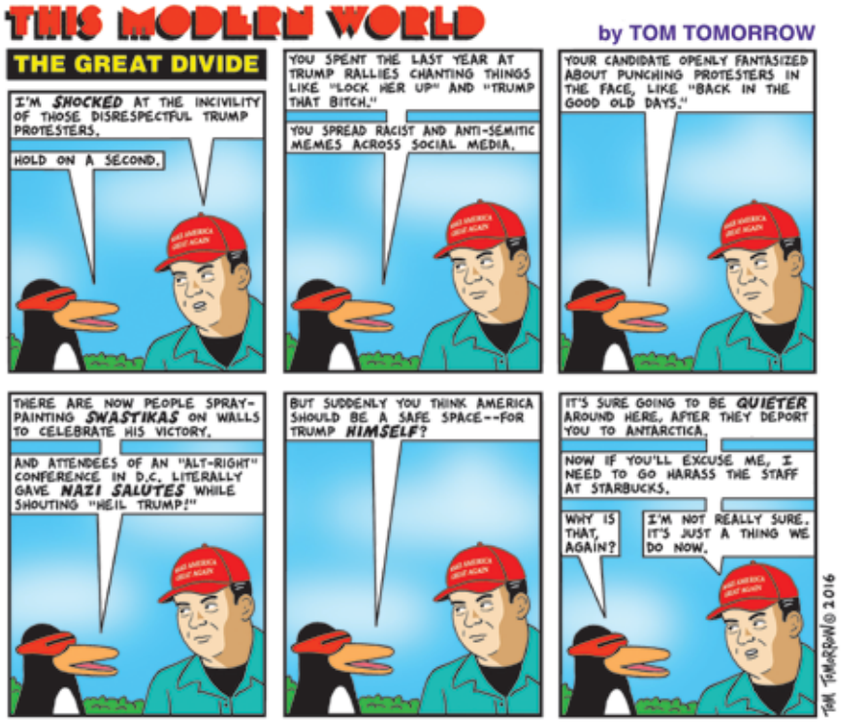
Arkansas chic

Kristi Goss, 43, an assistant to a Garland County (Arkansas) judge, was arrested in October and charged with stealing nearly $200,000 in public funds, which she used to buy such things as a tuxedo for her dog, sequined throw pillows, a "diamond bracelet" (retailing for $128) and, of course, Arkansas Razorback football tickets.

The passing parade

(1) At press time, "Bugs Bunny" and "Pink Panther" were on trial in St. Catharines, Ontario, on aggravated-assault charges from a Halloween 2015 bar fight in which "Dracula's" ear was severely slashed with a broken bottle. "There was a lot of blood," said a witness (but coming from Dracula, not being sucked out by Dracula). (Update: The judge cleared Bugs, but was still deliberating on Panther.) (2) The tardigrade is an ugly micro-organism that is perhaps the sturdiest animal on Earth, able to endure otherwise-impossible living conditions and (thanks to gene- sequencing) known to be composed of DNA not seen elsewhere. A Japanese company recently began selling an oversized, cuddlable tardigrade toy "plushie" authenticated by science's leading tardigrade authority, professor Kazuharu Arakawa of Keio University.

Visit weirduniverse.net.



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